

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1989 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, TALLMAN, WHITE, KORTZ, D. COSTA, MAHONEY, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MOUL, HENNESSEY, R. MILLER, GINGRICH, V. BROWN, COHEN, EVERETT, GABLER, GROVE, GILLEN, DENLINGER, KIRKLAND AND GIBBONS, JANUARY 29, 2014

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 2, 2014

AN ACT

1 Designating the Piper J-3 Cub as the official State aircraft of  
2 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; AND DESIGNATING THE <--  
3 PENNSYLVANIA LONG RIFLE AS THE OFFICIAL FIREARM OF THE  
4 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

5 The General Assembly finds and declares that:

6 (1) The Piper J-3 Cub is a small, simple, light  
7 aircraft, recognizable by its famous yellow fuselage and  
8 black trim, that was built in the city of Lock Haven, Clinton  
9 County, between 1937 and 1947 by Piper Aircraft.

10 (2) During that time period, 19,076 Cubs were produced  
11 in Lock Haven.

12 (3) With tandem seating, the Cub was intended for  
13 flight training but became one of the most popular and best-  
14 known light aircraft of all time among the military and  
15 civilian population.

16 (4) The Cub's simplicity, affordability and popularity  
17 invoke comparisons to the Ford Model T automobile.

1           (5) The Cub was modified and used by the United States  
2 Armed Forces during World War II for reconnaissance and as a  
3 hedgehopper over all kinds of terrain to carry personnel,  
4 critical supplies and important messages for the artillery  
5 and tank corps, and cavalry and infantry.

6           (6) PENNSYLVANIA'S GUNMAKING TRADITION HAS PLAYED AN       <--  
7 IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF  
8 AMERICA.

9           (7) DURING PENNSYLVANIA'S EARLY HISTORY, SETTLERS PLACED  
10 CHIEF RELIANCE ON THEIR RIFLES FOR SUSTENANCE, SECURITY AND  
11 SURVIVAL.

12           (8) THE PENNSYLVANIA LONG RIFLE, A UNIQUE FIREARM THAT  
13 WAS DIFFERENT IN PRINCIPLE AND OUTLINE FROM ANY OTHER WEAPON  
14 IN THE WORLD, WAS DEVELOPED BY SKILLED GUNSMITHS IN THE  
15 MORAVIAN COMMUNITIES OF CHRISTIAN'S SPRING, NORTHAMPTON  
16 COUNTY, AS WELL AS BY ARTISTIC RIFLEMAKER MARTIN MEYLIN, IN  
17 WILLOW STREET, LANCASTER COUNTY.

18           (9) THE PENNSYLVANIA LONG RIFLE WAS THE FIRST TRULY  
19 AMERICAN FIREARM AND, DUE TO ITS EXCEPTIONAL ACCURACY AND  
20 RANGE, WAS CONSIDERED THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IN THE  
21 DEVELOPMENT OF FIREARMS DURING THE 18TH CENTURY.

22           (10) PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE  
23 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW ENGLAND, THE  
24 PENNSYLVANIA LONG RIFLE WAS ALSO INSTRUMENTAL IN THE AMERICAN  
25 FUR TRADE AND WAS CARRIED WEST AND SOUTH BY FRONTIERSMEN AS  
26 THEY SET OUT TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NATION.

27           (11) THE PENNSYLVANIA LONG RIFLE HAS BEEN LAUDED FOR ITS  
28 BEAUTY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP, AS WELL AS THE INGENUITY OF THE  
29 SKILLED GUNSMITHS WHO CRAFTED IT.

30           (12) THE COLOR COMBINATIONS, CARVINGS, ENGRAVINGS AND

1 GRACEFUL SLENDERNESS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LONG RIFLE CAUSE IT  
2 TO STAND ALONE AND REMAIN UNCHALLENGED AS A PRIMARY EXAMPLE  
3 OF EARLY AMERICAN ART.

4 (13) FUTURE GENERATIONS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO APPRECIATE  
5 THE HERITAGE OF THIS LONG-BARRELED RIFLE, BORN TO ARTISTIC  
6 GUNSMITHS IN THE COMMUNITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
7 PENNSYLVANIA.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Official State aircraft.

11 The aircraft known as the Piper J-3 Cub is selected,  
12 designated and adopted as the official State aircraft of the  
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

14 SECTION 2. OFFICIAL STATE FIREARM. <--

15 THE PENNSYLVANIA LONG RIFLE IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AS THE  
16 OFFICIAL FIREARM OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

17 Section 2 3. Effective date. <--

18 This act shall take effect immediately.