
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 43 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, HAYWOOD, GREENLEAF, WOZNIAK, ARGALL,
DINNIMAN, HUTCHINSON, FONTANA, PILEGGI, TARTAGLIONE,
VULAKOVICH, COSTA, SMITH, HUGHES, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK,
BOSCOLA, BAKER AND AUMENT, MARCH 3, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 3, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing March 14, 2015, as "Charter Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1681, King Charles II of England granted
3 William Penn a charter for land in the New World to make up for
4 a large debt that the king owed to Penn's father; and

5 WHEREAS, William Penn had initially decided to name the land
6 "Sylvania," which in Latin means "woods" and to which King
7 Charles II added the prefix "Penn" in honor of William Penn's
8 father, Admiral Sir William Penn, who had served England as a
9 rear admiral and vice admiral of Ireland, a vice admiral of
10 England, a general in the first Dutch War and great captain
11 commander under the Duke of York; and

12 WHEREAS, William Penn wrote a Frame of Government of
13 Pennsylvania that established a democratic system containing
14 freedom of religion, fair trials using independent juries,
15 assemblies consisting of elected representatives of the people
16 and a separation of powers in the government, all ideas that

1 later formed the crux of the Constitution of the United States;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, William Penn described Pennsylvania as his "holy
4 experiment" and from it, he hoped, a nation based on justice
5 would grow; and

6 WHEREAS, William Penn's charter exists as the formal
7 beginning of the colony and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and
8 through it William Penn established the first conscious attempt
9 at democracy in what would become the United States of America;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Residents benefit from learning more about the
12 overall history of this Commonwealth and how the principles of
13 governance within the Commonwealth date back to the beliefs of
14 William Penn; and

15 WHEREAS, The act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.676, No.210) provides
16 for the observance in March of each year as "Charter Day" and
17 urges the people of this Commonwealth, the public schools and
18 other educational institutions and patriotic, religious,
19 historical and veterans organizations to observe on that day the
20 anniversary of the execution of the Royal Charter by King
21 Charles II; and

22 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
23 the Pennsylvania State Archives and the State Historical Records
24 Advisory Board each work to inform our residents about the
25 Commonwealth's heritage, including sponsoring the 16th Annual
26 Charter Day event on Sunday, March 8, 2015, at many Pennsylvania
27 Historical and Museum Commission historic sites and properties
28 around this Commonwealth; and

29 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has 25 other State historic sites and
30 museums and numerous other historical organizations that

1 continue to operate, largely thanks to the assistance of
2 volunteers and other groups that have donated their money, time
3 and other resources so that residents can remain well informed
4 about the fabric of this Commonwealth's history; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate observe March 14, 2015, as "Charter
6 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the residents, schools, other educational
8 institutions and patriotic, religious, historical and veterans
9 groups be urged to participate in the "Charter Day" activities
10 sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
11 the Pennsylvania State Archives, the State Historical Records
12 Advisory Board, the 25 other state historic sites and museums or
13 those offered by any of the many other historical organizations
14 within this Commonwealth; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the volunteers and other residents who keep
16 history alive through their support and work for the
17 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania
18 State Archives, the State Historical Records Advisory Board, the
19 25 other state historic sites and museums or through the
20 numerous other historical organizations within this Commonwealth
21 be honored for their efforts.