

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 636 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY HAHN, GROVE, TALLMAN, BENNINGHOFF, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, CUTLER, EMRICK, FARINA, FLECK, GILLEN, GOODMAN, HENNESSEY, HESS, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KORTZ, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSHALL, METCALFE, MILLARD, MILLER, MOUL, MURT, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, REESE, ROCK, SWANGER, STEVENSON, SACcone AND EVANKOVICH, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 8, 2013

AN ACT

1 Designating the Pennsylvania Long Rifle as the official firearm
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's gunmaking tradition has played an
4 important role in the development of the United States of
5 America; and

6 WHEREAS, During Pennsylvania's early history, settlers placed
7 chief reliance on their rifles for sustenance, security and
8 survival; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Long Rifle, a unique firearm that
10 was different in principle and outline from any other weapon in
11 the world, was developed by skilled gunsmiths in the Moravian
12 communities of Christian's Spring, Northampton County, as well
13 as by artistic riflemaker Martin Meylin, in Willow Street,
14 Lancaster County; and

15 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Long Rifle was the first truly
16 American firearm and, due to its exceptional accuracy and range,

1 was considered the greatest achievement in the development of
2 firearms during the 18th century; and

3 WHEREAS, Playing an important role in the early years of the
4 Industrial Revolution in Pennsylvania and New England, the
5 Pennsylvania Long Rifle was also instrumental in the American
6 fur trade and was carried west and south by frontiersmen as they
7 set out to expand the boundaries of the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Long Rifle has been lauded for its
9 beauty and craftsmanship, as well as the ingenuity of the
10 skilled gunsmiths who crafted it; and

11 WHEREAS, The color combinations, carvings, engravings and
12 graceful slenderness of the Pennsylvania Long Rifle cause it to
13 stand alone and remain unchallenged as a primary example of
14 early American art; and

15 WHEREAS, Future generations deserve the right to appreciate
16 the heritage of this long-barreled rifle, born to artistic
17 gunsmiths in the communities of the Commonwealth of
18 Pennsylvania.

19 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
20 hereby enacts as follows:

21 Section 1. Official State firearm.

22 The Pennsylvania Long Rifle is hereby designated as the
23 official firearm of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

24 Section 2. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect immediately.