
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 477 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, MALAGARI, KORTZ, HENNESSEY, PASHINSKI,
LONGIETTI, FRANKEL, SAPPEY, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG,
KOSIEROWSKI, ROEBUCK, SHUSTERMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, SAMUELSON,
KINSEY, READSHAW, SONNEY, BOBACK, BROWN, MILLARD, DIGIROLAMO,
POLINCHOCK, O'MARA, MENTZER, WILLIAMS, MURT, MACKENZIE,
CIRESI, HILL-EVANS AND SAINATO, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2019 as "Civic Education
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is where the constitutional
4 government for the United States of America began 232 years ago;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, We, the American people, must heed President Abraham
7 Lincoln's charge to ensure "that government of the people, by
8 the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth";
9 and

10 WHEREAS, To maintain a government by and for the people, the
11 United States needs a citizenry that understands the history and
12 foundation of our representative democracy, the role of strong
13 institutions in facilitating effective collective decision
14 making and the essential nature of active community
15 participation in our system of self-governance; and

16 WHEREAS, Only 26% of Americans can name the three branches of

1 our national government; and

2 WHEREAS, The highest national voter turnout in an election
3 since 1970 was just 61.6% of the voting eligible population; and

4 WHEREAS, On the most recent national civic knowledge test,
5 only 23% of eighth grade students scored at or above the
6 proficient level; and

7 WHEREAS, Effective civic education is linked to higher voter
8 turnout, increased collaborative skills and lower dropout rate,
9 among many other benefits; and

10 WHEREAS, Schools have the capacity to reach nearly every
11 young person in the country and are therefore essential in
12 establishing and maintaining a robust culture of civic
13 engagement for future generations of Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, Act 35 of 2018 requires each school entity to
15 administer at least once to students in grades seven through
16 twelve an assessment of United States history, government and
17 civics, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year; and

18 WHEREAS, All Pennsylvanians could benefit from civic
19 education to encourage greater engagement and involvement in the
20 American political process; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of October 2019 as "Civic Education Awareness Month" in
23 Pennsylvania; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
25 residents of this Commonwealth to celebrate efforts to educate
26 and inform American citizens about their rights and
27 responsibilities as citizens and the importance of civic
28 engagement.