
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 936 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MURT, PASHINSKI, SCHMITT, KORTZ, KIM, HENNESSEY,
DONATUCCI, LONGIETTI, MALAGARI, KINSEY, BURNS, HILL-EVANS,
ROZZI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, READSHAW, MILLARD, RYAN, STRUZZI,
MACKENZIE, HOWARD, GAINNEY AND HOHENSTEIN, JULY 8, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, JULY 8, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 12, 2020, as "Behavior Analyst Appreciation
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Behavior analysis is a natural science, distinct
4 from psychology, in which the interaction between environmental
5 variables and behavior is studied, with that knowledge utilized
6 to produce effective and efficient methods to teach and increase
7 socially significant behaviors while reducing harmful behaviors;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, B.F. Skinner, a native of Pennsylvania, established
10 behavior analysis as the experimental study of how learning
11 occurs through the interaction between environmental variables
12 and behavior over time; and

13 WHEREAS, The field of behavior analysis contains more than 80
14 years of experimental research and more than 60 years of applied
15 research demonstrating the relationships between environment and
16 behavior as well as interventions that create socially
17 significant improvements in an individual's life; and

1 WHEREAS, The field of behavior analysis has research evidence
2 that shows effective and efficient behavior-change procedures
3 that can dramatically affect any area of human behavior,
4 including mental health, education, health and wellness, weight
5 loss programs, medication and medical treatment adherence,
6 gerontology, business management, business leadership, training
7 and supervision; and

8 WHEREAS, The field of behavior analysis has research evidence
9 that shows effective and efficient behavior-change procedures
10 for a wide range of mental health disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, Applied behavior analysis is widely recognized as
12 the most effective treatment for children and adults with autism
13 spectrum disorder and intellectual and developmental
14 disabilities, with more than 50 years of scientific research
15 establishing its effectiveness in producing socially significant
16 behavior change; and

17 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Surgeon
18 General of the United States have endorsed the use of applied
19 behavior analysis in the treatment of autism spectrum disorder;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Behavior analysts and behavior analytic
22 professionals engage in experimental and applied research,
23 service delivery of interventions based on research and serve as
24 trainers, supervisors and leaders within organizations engaging
25 in research and application of behavior-change procedures; and

26 WHEREAS, On a daily basis, behavior analysts oversee
27 treatment programming for individuals and conduct assessment of
28 skills and skill deficits, assessment of unsafe or unhealthy
29 behavior, development of behavior-change procedures, training of
30 staff in implementation of behavior-change procedures,

1 collection of behavior data to monitor the effectiveness of
2 treatment programming, ongoing supervision of staff providing
3 behavior-change programming and collaboration with other
4 providers and individuals and their families to ensure treatment
5 success; and

6 WHEREAS, As of 2017, there were numerous board-certified
7 behavior analysts and behavior analytic professionals in this
8 Commonwealth, including 82 doctoral-level board-certified
9 behavior analysts, 1,017 board-certified behavior analysts, 28
10 board-certified assistant behavior analysts and 229 registered
11 behavior technicians; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June
13 12, 2020, as "Behavior Analyst Appreciation Day" in
14 Pennsylvania.