
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 215 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, DINNIMAN, BLAKE, FONTANA, J. WARD,
BREWSTER, MARTIN, MASTRIANO, KILLION AND SCHWANK,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Senate Library's exhibition on the history of
2 the Constitution of Pennsylvania occurring on September 23,
3 2019, through February 28, 2020.

4 WHEREAS, Over the course of this Commonwealth's history,
5 there have been five versions of the Constitution of
6 Pennsylvania that were ratified in 1776, 1790, 1838, 1874 and
7 1968; and

8 WHEREAS, On September 28, 1776, the first Constitution of
9 Pennsylvania was adopted by a Constitutional Convention in
10 Philadelphia; and

11 WHEREAS, The principal drafters of the first Constitution of
12 Pennsylvania included Benjamin Franklin, George Bryan and James
13 Cannon; and

14 WHEREAS, The 1874 version of the Constitution of Pennsylvania
15 was adopted on November 3, 1873, by a Constitutional Convention,
16 ratified by voters in this Commonwealth at a special election
17 held on December 16, 1873, and went into effect on January 1,
18 1874; and

1 WHEREAS, A proposed amendment to the Constitution of
2 Pennsylvania must be approved by any of the following:

3 (1) A majority of the Senate and a majority of the House
4 of Representatives in two consecutive sessions and ratified
5 by the voters of this Commonwealth.

6 (2) A majority of the members of a Constitutional
7 Convention called by the voters in this Commonwealth and
8 submitted to and ratified by the voters of this Commonwealth;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Pennsylvania was last amended on
11 November 7, 2017, when voters in this Commonwealth ratified an
12 amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania regarding tax
13 exclusion for homestead property; and

14 WHEREAS, The Senate Library's collection includes a nine-
15 volume set of books titled, "Reference Manuals," issued by the
16 1968 Constitutional Convention; and

17 WHEREAS, The Senate Library's collection includes copies of
18 all five versions of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and the
19 proceedings of each Constitutional Convention; and

20 WHEREAS, The Senate Library has many resources for legal
21 research on the Constitution of Pennsylvania, including, "The
22 Pennsylvania Constitution: A Treatise on Rights and Liberties"
23 by Ken Gormley and "Pennsylvania Constitutional Law" by Robert
24 E. Woodside; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the Senate Library's
26 exhibition on the history of the Constitution of Pennsylvania
27 occurring on September 23, 2019, through February 28, 2020.