
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 298 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, SABATINA, GREENLEAF, EICHELBERGER,
DINNIMAN, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, SCHWANK, VULAKOVICH, HUGHES,
FARNESE, HUTCHINSON, COSTA, RESCHENTHALER AND BROWNE,
MARCH 14, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 14, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 14, 2016, 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

7 WHEREAS, King Charles II added the prefix "Penn" to the name
8 in honor of William Penn's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, who
9 had served England as a rear admiral and vice admiral of
10 Ireland, a vice admiral of England, a general in the first Dutch
11 War and great captain 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 WHEREAS, Through it, William Penn established the first
9 conscious example of democracy in what would become the United
10 States of America; and

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

15 WHEREAS, The act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.676, No.210) provides
16 for the observance of March 14 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
20 the 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 works to inform our residents about the
25 Commonwealth's heritage, including sponsoring the 17th Annual
26 "Charter Day" event on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at many
27 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission historical sites
28 and properties in 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 recognize March 14, 2016, as
6 "Charter 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.