
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 737 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GILLESPIE, HARHAI, TOOIL, PEIFER, BENNINGHOFF,
BOBACK, KIRKLAND, MURT, KOTIK, KNOWLES, V. BROWN, BAKER,
SACCONE, PASHINSKI, BURNS, WATSON, MILLARD, CALTAGIRONE,
MACKENZIE, THOMAS, VEREB, ELLIS, WHEELAND, D. COSTA,
GODSHALL, NEILSON, WARD, HARHART, HENNESSEY, MALONEY,
MARSICO, ROSS, PICKETT, SAINATO, KINSEY, O'NEILL, SONNEY,
DUSH, PAYNE, GOODMAN AND READSHAW, MARCH 15, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 15, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Fish and
2 Boat Commission.

3 WHEREAS, A convention held in Harrisburg to investigate water
4 pollution and the halting of American shad runs in the
5 Susquehanna River resulted in Governor Andrew Curtin signing Act
6 336 of 1866, which eventually led to what is known today as the
7 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the last 150 years, the commission has evolved
9 from a one-person operation funded solely by the money allocated
10 from the General Fund to a professional agency funded primarily
11 by anglers and boaters through license and registration fees and
12 Federal excise taxes on fishing and boating equipment; and

13 WHEREAS, With the guiding philosophy of "Resource First," the
14 commission protects, conserves and enhances this Commonwealth's
15 aquatic resources while providing fishing and boating

1 opportunities; and

2 WHEREAS, The commission provides the public with some of the
3 best recreational fishing and boating in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, An estimated 1.1 million anglers and more than 3
5 million boaters enjoy this Commonwealth's waters each year,
6 generating \$1.2 billion in annual fishing-related expenditures;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Section 27 of Article I of the Constitution of
9 Pennsylvania states the following:

10 "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to
11 the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and
12 esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public
13 natural resources are the common property of all the
14 people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of
15 these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and
16 maintain them for the benefit of all the people";

17 and

18 WHEREAS, With more than 86,000 miles of streams and nearly
19 4,000 lakes, ponds and reservoirs, this Commonwealth's aquatic
20 resources are extensive, rich and diverse; and

21 WHEREAS, The commission is responsible for managing and
22 safeguarding both aquatic habitats and species resources;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate the
25 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for 150 years of service
26 to this Commonwealth and wish the commission well as it embarks
27 on another 150 years of service to this Commonwealth, its
28 aquatic resources and rich recreational fishing and boating
29 heritage.