

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 82 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HARKINS, DIAMOND, M. MACKENZIE, MALAGARI, SANCHEZ,
KINSEY, MERSKI, HADDOCK, McANDREW, SCOTT, GREEN, MADDEN,
DONAHUE, NEILSON, GUZMAN, WAXMAN, GALLAGHER AND CEPEDA-
FREYTIZ, APRIL 24, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, APRIL 24, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2023 as "Problem Gambling
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and recognizing the month of
3 March 2023 as "National Problem Gambling Awareness Month."

4 WHEREAS, Individuals across the country and in this
5 Commonwealth enjoy the recreational aspects of legalized
6 gambling; and

7 WHEREAS, For some individuals and families, gambling becomes
8 an issue affecting and disrupting the lives of these individuals
9 and their families; and

10 WHEREAS, The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG)
11 reports that 2% to 3% of the United States population, which
12 equates to between 6.5 million and 10 million Americans, will
13 have a gambling problem in any given year; and

14 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is a public health issue affecting
15 individuals of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds in all
16 communities and has a significant societal and economic cost;
17 and

1 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is treatable, and treatment is
2 effective in minimizing the harm to individuals, families and
3 society as a whole; and

4 WHEREAS, Only a limited number of individuals affected by
5 problem gambling seek treatment options and utilize existing
6 problem gambling programs; and

7 WHEREAS, Numerous individuals, professionals and
8 organizations have dedicated their efforts to public awareness
9 of problem gambling and the availability and effectiveness of
10 treatment; and

11 WHEREAS, NCPG is coordinating the annual "National Problem
12 Gambling Awareness Month" campaign during March 2023 to educate
13 the public about the impact of problem gambling and the
14 availability of treatment options; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
16 month of March 2023 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in
17 Pennsylvania and recognize the month of March 2023 as "National
18 Problem Gambling Awareness Month"; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
20 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to continue outreach efforts
21 and to work with the Pennsylvania gaming industry to develop and
22 implement problem gambling programs and further promote
23 community-based programs in this Commonwealth; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
25 Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the Department of
26 Revenue, through efforts of the Pennsylvania Lottery in
27 conjunction with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, and
28 individuals, professionals and organizations dedicated to public
29 awareness and treatment of problem gambling to jointly create,
30 develop and promote public awareness campaigns regarding the

1 recognition and prevention of problem gambling; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that
4 problem gambling is a public health issue impacting residents in
5 this Commonwealth in a harmful way which must be addressed in a
6 reasonable and responsible manner; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all the
8 residents of this Commonwealth to learn more about problem
9 gambling and the programs available to help those individuals
10 and families who have been adversely affected by this issue.