

THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY BILL OF RIGHTS

The Pennsylvania History Bill of Rights (PHBR) is based upon provisions of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and on the requirements of the History Code. During spring 2010 visitors to Pennsylvania historic sites and museums, thousands of Pennsylvania citizens, viewed the draft PHBR and ranked its provisions. The PHBR was formally adopted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on March 17, 2010.

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY BILL OF RIGHTS

Whereas understanding Pennsylvania's history is key to understanding America's history, and

Whereas Section 27 of Article I of the Constitution of Pennsylvania makes the Commonwealth trustee for the preservation of the historic values of the environment, and

Whereas the irreplaceable historical, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage of this Commonwealth should be preserved and protected for the benefit of all the people, including future generations, and

Whereas, the preservation and protection of historic resources in this Commonwealth promotes the public health, prosperity and general welfare, and

Whereas, it is in the public interest for the Commonwealth, its citizens and its political subdivisions to engage in comprehensive programs of historic preservation for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of all the people, including future generations, and

Whereas many individuals and organizations across the Commonwealth are working diligently to make sure that history is not lost, and

Therefore, be it resolved on this date _____ that we,
join with other heritage and cultural organizations across the Commonwealth to recognize and adopt the following Pennsylvania History Bill of Rights as guiding principles for our organization reflecting the needs and expectations of Pennsylvania's citizens in preserving and sharing Pennsylvania's heritage:

Students in Pennsylvania schools understand Pennsylvania's history in the context of local, national and world events.

Pennsylvania maintains a competitive position as a premier tourism destination for heritage travelers.

Pennsylvania citizens have access to the current records of government and the permanently valuable documents which tell the history of the Commonwealth.

Current and future generations are assured that Pennsylvania's historical resources are preserved for their enjoyment and use.

Pennsylvania's museums, historical societies and historic sites receive adequate public and private support to maintain high standards of stewardship and public access.

Pennsylvania's communities retain the historic character and distinctiveness that are essential to attracting and retaining residents, businesses and visitors.