

PENNSYLVANIA



*A student's guide to
Pennsylvania...its
history and its
government.*



**SENATOR
GREG ROTHMAN**

Chairman, Senate Game & Fisheries Committee
The 34th Senatorial District

Dear Students, Teachers and Parents,

I'm Senator Greg Rothman, your state senator. I represent Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry Counties in the Pennsylvania State Senate.

There are many things to be proud of in Pennsylvania... magnificent scenery, a rich history, a pioneering spirit – and a system of government that has sustained Pennsylvania and the nation for more than 300 years.

The Senate of Pennsylvania has prepared this booklet for you, to help teach you about the many things that our great state has to offer.

In addition, it provides information on how state government works and the legislative process.

I hope you will enjoy learning all about our great state, and have fun with the games and puzzles that are included.

So read on, and begin the adventure of learning all about the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its government.

Sincerely,

Greg Rothman

OFFICES TO SERVE YOU

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168 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
717-787-1377

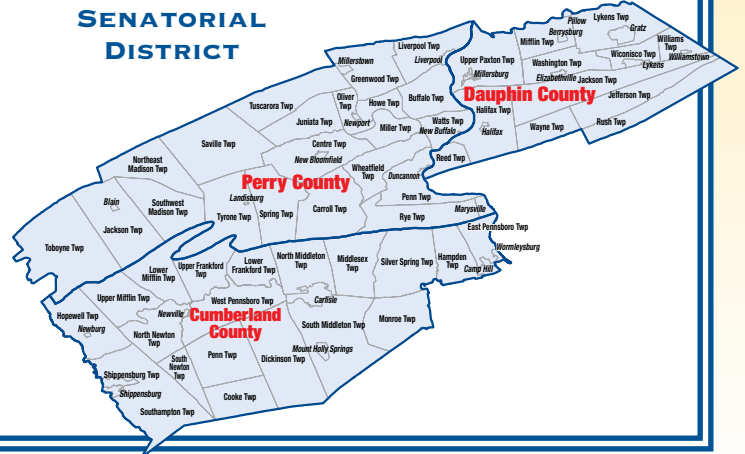
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**34TH
SENATORIAL
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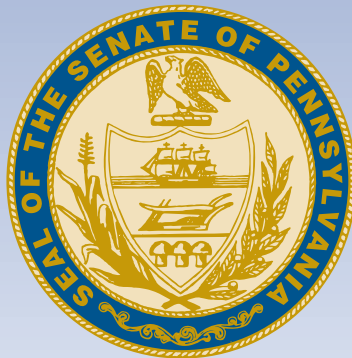


ABOUT THE STATE LEGISLATURE...

The legislative body of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is called the General Assembly, which consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Members of the General Assembly are chosen at the general election every two years. Representatives are chosen to serve a two-year term; however, Senators are elected for a four-year term.

Pennsylvania is divided into 50 Senatorial districts, each with approximately 260,000 people. Each district has one state senator. The state is divided into smaller 203 House districts, each with approximately 64,000 people.



The combined bodies of the Senate and House together are called the Legislature. Legislators are responsible for many duties, including making state laws, setting policies, developing the state budget, helping constituents and ensuring that state government runs smoothly.

The Senate and House meet regularly throughout the year in Harrisburg to consider and vote on important issues. These meetings are called session days. Senators also have offices in their districts, where they meet with local residents to discuss the concerns and needs of the community.

FUN FACTS



Background

- Pennsylvania was settled in 1643.
- Philadelphia was the state capital during the Revolutionary War.
- York was the first capital of the United States.
- Pennsylvania means Penn's Woods.
- Nickname: Keystone State.
- Motto: "Virtue, Liberty and Independence"
- Total Area: Approximately 46,000 square miles (33rd largest state in the nation)
- Population: Approximately 12,432,000 (sixth in the nation)
- Adopted original state constitution: September 28, 1776
- Adopted revised state constitution: 1790
- Adopted current state constitution: 1968

Legislature

- State Representatives: 203
- State Senators: 50
- U.S. Representatives: 17
- U.S. Senators: 2

Geography

- Capital: Harrisburg · Counties: 67
- Land area: Approx. 46,000 square miles:
57% forest, 30% agriculture, 10% urban, 3% water
- Length: Approximately 180 miles (north to south)
- Width: Approximately 310 miles (east to west)
- Lakes: 256 natural/2,324 manmade
- State Parks: 121 · State Forests: 20

Pennsylvania Firsts

- First hospital · First library · First zoo · First newspaper
- First nation's capital · First all-motion-picture theater
- First television broadcast
- First educational public television station
- First paper mill · First druggist
- First high-speed multi-lane highway:
the Pennsylvania Turnpike
- First locomotive for railroad use

Agriculture

- Farms: Approx. 52,700 · Farmland: 7,300,000 acres
- Agricultural product sales: Approx. \$7.2 billion annually
- Leading farm products include: corn, dairy products, mushrooms, apples, tobacco, grapes, peaches and cut flowers.
- Rural population: Approx. 3,400,000

SEARCH & FIND



Some important words used by lawmakers are hidden in this puzzle. The words can run forward, backward, up, down or diagonally. See if you can find them all:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| SENATORS | CONFERENCE |
| REPRESENTATIVES | BILL |
| COMMITTEE | GOVERNOR |
| MEMBERS | LAW |
| VOTE | INTRODUCTION |
| IDEAS | SENATE |
| VETO | HOUSE |

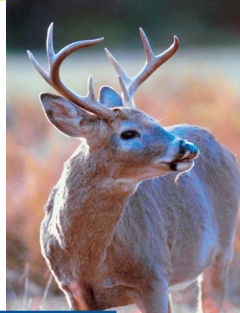


OUR STATE SYMBOLS

Pennsylvania has many official "symbols." Each of the symbols is connected to history or pays honor to a native species or product that is very important to Pennsylvania's economy. Read on to find out more about our state symbols.

STATE ANIMAL

WHITETAIL DEER – The early settlers of Pennsylvania depended on this deer to feed and clothe them year-round. These deer continue to roam today in the state's forests.



STATE BEVERAGE

MILK – This symbol is a fitting honor to one of the state's leading farm products. It also gives praise to dairy cows, which each produce 62 glasses of milk daily.



STATE FOSSIL

PHACOPS RANA – A specific type of trilobite, a small sea creature. Phacops Rana means "frog eyes" because of the large holes for the eyes on the fossil.



STATE TREE

HEMLOCK – Many early pioneers in Pennsylvania felt better protected from bad weather inside log cabins made from this tree.



STATE SHIP

UNITED STATES BRIG NIAGARA – This ship was important in the War of 1812. It defeated a British ship in the Battle of Lake Erie.

STATE DOG

GREAT DANE – This dog was a hunting and working dog in the very early days of Pennsylvania.



STATE BIRD

RUFFED GROUSE – Sometimes called the partridge, this plump, red-brown bird with feathery legs was once a main source of food for early Pennsylvania settlers.



STATE INSECT

FIREFLY – These are the "lightning bugs" that Pennsylvanians know to brighten a summer night.



STATE FLAG

Authorized by the General Assembly in 1799, the state flag is fringed in gold with the Coat of Arms embroidered on a field of blue.



STATE FLOWER

MOUNTAIN LAUREL – In mid-June, many sunny mountainsides in the state are beautifully painted in pink pastel. These flowers delighted the wife of one of the past governors, who then declared it as the state flower.



STATE FISH

BROOK TROUT – Over 4,000 miles of cold-water streams form the natural habitat of this fish, the only trout native to Pennsylvania.

STATE AMPHIBIAN

EASTERN HELLBENDER – A salamander that can grow more than two feet long. They can be found in cold, clear, swift-running rivers and streams of the Susquehanna watershed.



THE MAKING OF A BILL



1. BIRTH...THE IDEA EMERGES

An idea for a bill can come from almost anywhere – individual legislators, private citizens, organizations, the Governor, or from bills considered in the past.

2. DEVELOPMENT

The bill is numbered by the Secretary of the Senate and then referred to a committee for its review.

3. COMMITTEE

The committee, a small group of legislators, reviews the bill and decides whether it deserves further consideration. Sometimes hearings are held to discuss the bill and allow for more input from the public.

4. IN THE SENATE

If a majority of Senators (26) votes for the bill, it is sent to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

5. IN THE HOUSE

The Chief Clerk receives the bill and refers it to a House Committee for its review.

6. COMMITTEE

The actions of a House Committee are similar to that of the Senate.

7. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

102 votes are needed for final passage.

8. BACK TO THE SENATE

If the bill is not changed (amended), it is signed by the Secretary and President of the Senate.

9. BACK TO THE HOUSE

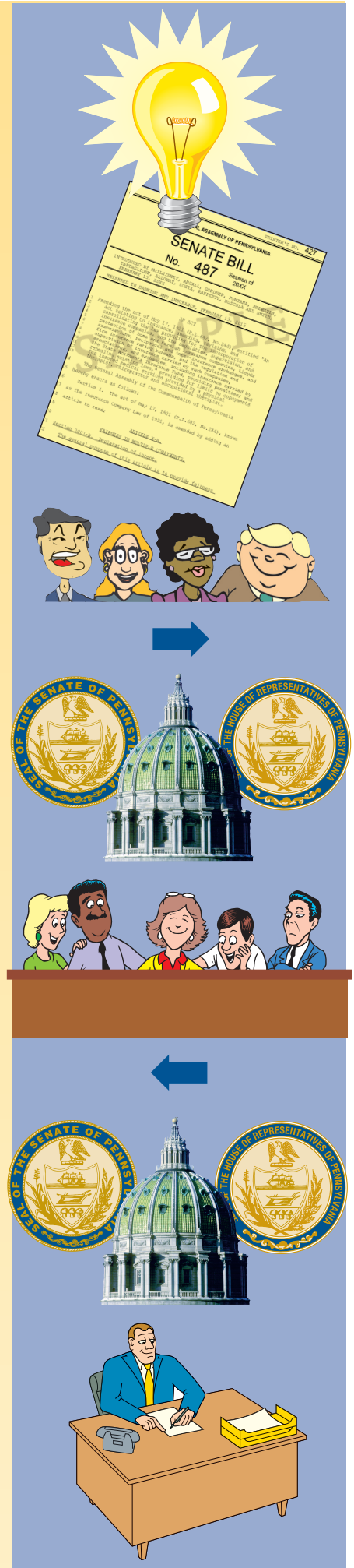
The bill is signed by the Speaker of the House and then sent to the Department of State for recording.

10. GOVERNOR / ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Governor refers the bill to the Attorney General for his opinion on whether the bill is legal and follows the guidelines under the Constitution.

11. GOVERNOR

The Governor then approves or disapproves (vetoes) the bill. If it is vetoed, the bill can still be passed by a two-thirds majority vote by both the Senate and the House of Representatives.



WORD SCRAMBLE



Unscramble the following state symbols.

– THE OFFICIAL STATE ANIMAL –

WTEHLTIAI REDE _____

– THE STATE FOSSIL –

HOC PAPS NARA _____

– THE STATE DOG –

ETRAG NDAE _____

– THE STATE INSECT –

YLIRFEF _____

– THE STATE FLOWER –

IONMANTU LLEARU _____

– THE STATE BEVERAGE –

LMKI _____

– THE STATE TREE –

CHLKMEO _____

– THE STATE FISH –

KOBRO OTRUT _____

– THE STATE SONG –

NAPINESNVALY _____

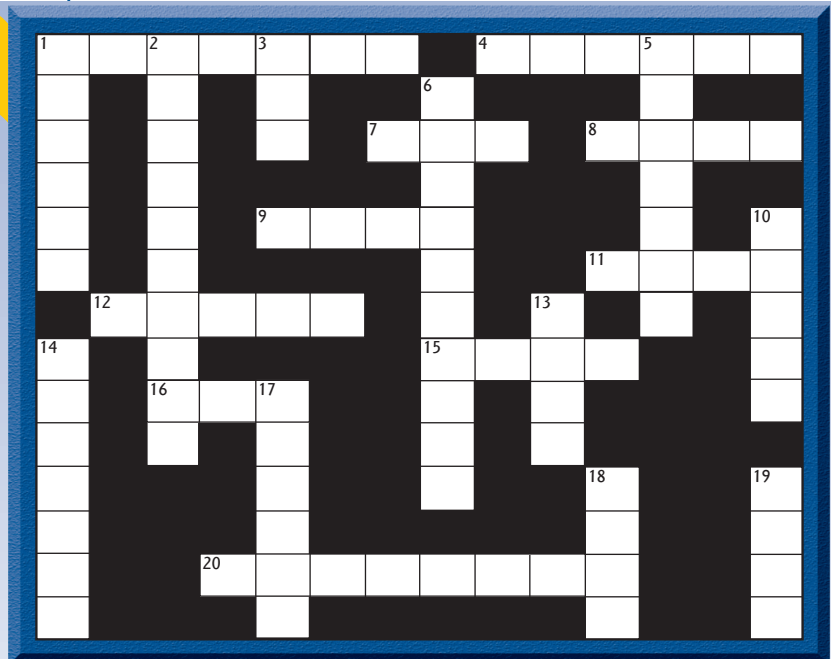
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Harrisburg is the _____ of Pennsylvania
- The part of the General Assembly that has 50 members
- When a bill is signed by the Governor, it becomes a _____
- If the Governor does not approve of a law, he can _____ it
- The number of years in the term of a state senator
- The state animal is the whitetail _____
- The part of the General Assembly that has 203 members
- The state ship is the United States _____ Niagara
- The Great Dane is the state _____
- Pennsylvania's nickname is the _____ state

DOWN

- Early settlers built log _____ from the Hemlock – the state tree
- The word *Pennsylvania* means _____
- The number of years in the term of a House Representative
- When a bill is changed, it is said to be _____
- The city where the State Capitol Building is located
- The brook _____ is the state fish



- The state beverage is _____
- The legislative body in Pennsylvania is called the _____ Assembly
- One of the leading farm products is _____
- The Hemlock is the state _____
- The _____ fly is the state insect

STATE SONG: PENNSYLVANIA

*This official song of the state was designated in 1990.
It is used for all public purposes.*

VERSE 1

*Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania,
Mighty is your name,
Steeped in glory and tradition
Object of acclaim.
Where brave men fought the foe of freedom,
Tyranny decried,
'Til the bell of independence
filled the countryside.*

CHORUS

*Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania,
May your future be,
filled with honor everlasting
as your history.*

VERSE 2

*Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania,
Blessed by God's own hand,
Birthplace of a mighty nation,
Keystone of the land.
Where first our country's flag unfolded,
Freedom to proclaim,
May the voices of tomorrow
glorify your name.*

CHORUS

*Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania,
May your future be,
filled with honor everlasting
as your history.*



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