

*The basics of*

# Pennsylvania



*And its History and Government*



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# 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 other year. Senators are elected for a four-year term and Representatives are chosen to serve a two-year term.

Pennsylvania is divided into 50 senatorial districts, each with approximately 250,000 people, and 203 house districts, each with approximately 60,000 people.

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. Legislators also have offices in their districts, where they meet with local residents to discuss the concerns and needs of the community.

# Making a Law

## 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 drafted, introduced in either the House or the Senate, and then referred to a committee for review.

## 3. COMMITTEE

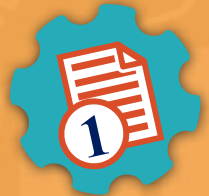
The committee, a small group of legislators, reviews the bill and decides whether it deserves further consideration. Sometimes, hearings are held to discuss the bill and allow more input from the public.

## 4. VOTES

If the committee approves the bill, then it gets voted on by the full House or Senate, depending on where the bill was introduced. If the bill was introduced in the House and a majority of representatives (102) vote for it, then it goes to the Senate, where the committee and voting process is repeated. If a majority of senators (26) vote for the bill without making any changes to it, the bill goes to the governor. If changes are made, it goes back to the House.

## 5. GOVERNOR

The final step for a bill to become law is the governor's desk. The governor can approve a bill either by signing it or simply allowing it to become law without his signature. He can also choose to reject, or veto, a bill. If a bill is vetoed, it can still become law if a two-thirds majority of both the House and Senate vote to override the governor's veto.





## Lawmaker's Lingo

# 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  
REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS  
VOTE  
IDEAS  
VETO  
CONFERENCE  
BILL  
GOVERNOR  
LAW  
INTRODUCTION  
SENATE  
HOUSE  
GOVERN  
STATE

I	T	H	J	K	E	S	U	O	H	C
A	L	G	E	R	I	O	L	Z	K	Q
C	G	O	V	E	R	N	O	R	J	R
O	B	H	B	M	I	G	L	Z	X	E
N	W	T	I	O	O	T	E	V	I	P
F	E	A	L	G	T	O	L	G	N	R
E	B	H	L	K	S	E	N	A	T	E
R	S	P	E	R	K	E	R	C	R	S
E	R	G	E	T	R	L	A	O	O	E
N	E	T	O	L	E	S	M	M	D	N
C	B	H	J	T	O	R	S	M	U	T
E	I	G	O	V	E	R	N	I	C	A
H	D	V	Y	T	O	B	D	T	T	T
T	E	S	A	T	M	M	E	T	I	I
J	A	T	A	E	G	E	D	E	O	V
K	S	N	J	K	D	M	L	E	N	E
J	E	H	S	R	E	B	M	E	M	S
S	G	E	S	X	Z	Q	A	P	L	I

# State Symbols



## 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 SEAL

Authorized by the General Assembly in 1791, the Seal is a symbol of authenticity which verifies that proclamations, commissions and other papers of state are legal and official.



## COAT OF ARMS

The Pennsylvania Coat of Arms is based on a 1778 design by Caleb Lownes of Philadelphia.



## 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 DOG

### GREAT DANE

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



## STATE TREE

### HEMLOCK

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

## STATE FLOWER

### MOUNTAIN LAUREL

Blooming in mid-June, these pink pastel flowers delighted the wife of one of the past governors, who then declared it to be the state flower.

*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.*



### 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 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 FOSSIL **PHACOPS RANA**

This extinct small water creature is commonly known as a trilobite. Phacops Rana means "frog eyes" because of the large holes for the eyes on the fossil.

### 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 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 INSECT **FIREFLY**

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

### STATE TRAIN **K4S Locomotive**

The boxy, black cylinder with the short stack on top was the main passenger locomotive of the Pennsylvania railroad for 30 years. At one time, 425 of these powerful coal-burners steamed across the state.





# Fun Facts



Capital: **Harrisburg**

- Nickname: Keystone State
- "Pennsylvania" means Penn's Woods.
- Population: Approximately 12,784,227 (sixth in the nation)
- Total Area: Approximately 46,000 square miles (33rd largest state in the nation)
- Land area: 44,888 square miles: 57% forest, 30% agriculture, 10% urban, 3% water
- Length: Approximately 180 miles (north to south)
- Width: Approximately 310 miles (east to west)
- Counties: 67
- Lakes: 256 natural/2,324 man-made
- State Parks: 121
- State Forests: 20



## CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THESE STATE SYMBOLS?

WTEHLTIAI REDE

YLIRFEF

KOBRO OTRUT

ETRAG NDAE

IONMANTU LLEARU

CHLKMEO





## HISTORICAL

- Pennsylvania was settled in 1643.
- Philadelphia was the first capital of the United States.
- Adopted original state Constitution: September 28, 1776
- Adopted current state Constitution: 1968 (The fifth version of our Constitution)

## GOVERNMENT

- State Representatives: 203
- State Senators: 50
- U.S. Representatives: 18
- U.S. Senators: 2

## AGRICULTURAL

- Rural population: Approximately 3.5 million
- Farms: 59,000
- Farmland: 7.7 million acres
- Agricultural product sales: Approximately \$4.3 billion annually
- Leading farm products: dairy products, mushrooms, apples, tobacco, grapes, peaches and cut flowers



## PENNSYLVANIA'S MOTTO

*Virtue, Liberty and Independence*

# 1st in the PA NATION

## FIRST...

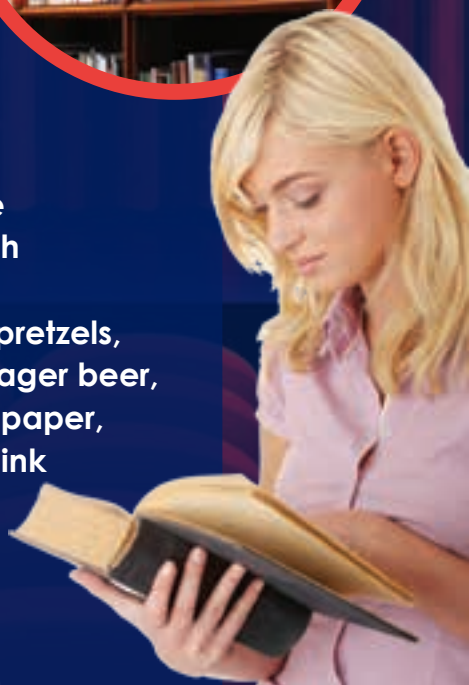
- Nation's capital
- Licensed hunters
- State game lands
- Covered bridges
- Commercial electronic computer
  - Magazine & newspaper
  - Hospital & druggist
- All-motion-picture theater
  - Radio broadcast
- Commercial radio station
  - Television broadcast
- Cable television system
  - Steamboat
- Round-trip airplane flight
  - Streetcar
  - Road map
- High-speed multi-lane highway
- Locomotive for railroad use
- Professional football game





### **FIRST...**

- Circus
- Zoo
- Arcade
- Bird sanctuary
- Library
- Book for the blind
- Nursing school
- Encyclopedia
- College biology course
- Bible translated to English
- Printed election ballots
- Manufacturer of potato chips, pretzels, mushrooms, sausage, scrapple, lager beer, jeans, mustard, rootbeer, wallpaper, boiler plates and printer's ink
- Botany professor
- Geology book
- Institution of art
- Chemistry laboratory & Chemistry professor
- Symphony orchestra
- Advertising agency & advertising school
- Mint of the United States
- Meat packing plants
- Licensed bakeries





# The State Song

## *Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania*

The official state song of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was adopted by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Robert P. Casey on November 29, 1990. Lyrics and music were written by Eddie Khoury and Ronnie Bonner.

### 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

### 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

## CHORUS

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

# Hey PA

What do you know...



## Across

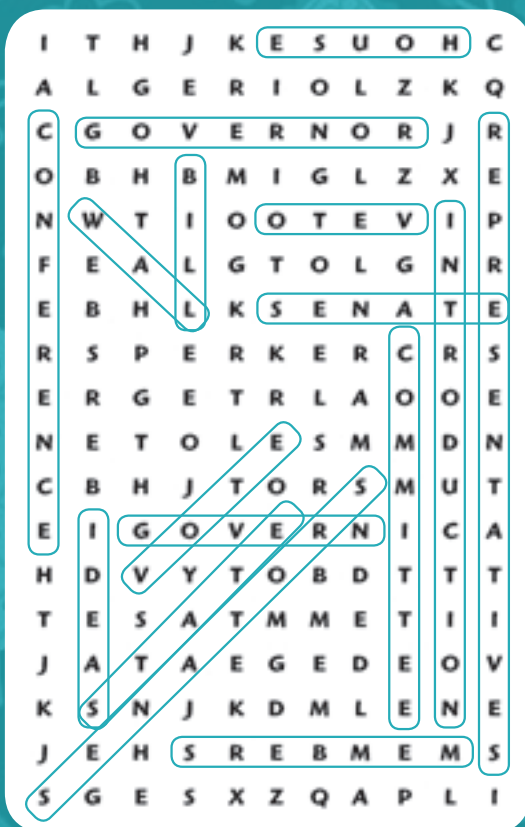
1. Harrisburg is the \_\_\_\_\_ of PA.
4. The part of the General Assembly that has 50 members
7. When a bill is signed by the Governor, it becomes a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. If the Governor does not approve of a law, he can \_\_\_\_\_ it.
9. The number of years in the term of a state senator
11. The state animal is the whitetail \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The part of the General Assembly that has 203 members
15. The state ship is the United States \_\_\_\_\_ Niagara.
16. The Great Dane is the state \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Pennsylvania's nickname is the \_\_\_\_\_ State.

## Down

1. Early settlers built log \_\_\_\_\_ from the Hemlock tree.
2. The word Pennsylvania means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The number of years in the term of a Representative
5. When a bill is changed, it is said to be \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Pennsylvania's capital city
10. The brook \_\_\_\_\_ is the state fish.
13. The state beverage
14. The PA legislative body is called the \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly.
17. One of the leading farm products is \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Hemlock is the state \_\_\_\_\_.
19. The state insect is the \_\_\_\_\_ fly.

# Puzzle Keys

## Page 3 Word Find



## Page 5 Crossword

### Across

1. Capital
4. Senate
7. Law
8. Veto
9. Four
11. Deer
12. House
15. Brig
16. Dog
20. Keystone

### Down

1. Cabins
2. Penns Woods
3. Two
5. Amended
6. Harrisburg
10. Trout
13. Milk
14. General
17. Grapes
18. Tree
19. Fire

## Page 9 Word Scramble

Whitetail Deer

Firefly

Brook Trout

Great Dane

Mountain Laurel

Hemlock





*State Representative*

**BRETT R. MILLER**

*41st Legislative District*



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