
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1192 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY ALLOWAY, KASUNIC AND WHITE, NOVEMBER 22, 2013

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 22, 2013

AN ACT

1 Designating the Pennsylvania Rifle as the official firearm of
2 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's gunmaking tradition has played an
4 important role in the development of the United States of
5 America; and

6 WHEREAS, During Pennsylvania's early history, settlers placed
7 chief reliance on their rifles for sustenance, security and
8 survival; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Rifle, a unique firearm that was
10 different in principle and outline from any other weapon in the
11 world, was developed by skilled gunsmiths in the Moravian
12 community of Christian's Spring, Northampton County, as well as
13 by artistic riflemaker Martin Meylin, in Willow Street,
14 Lancaster County; and

15 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Rifle was the first truly American
16 firearm and, due to its exceptional accuracy and range, was
17 considered the greatest achievement in the development of
18 firearms during the 18th century; and

1 WHEREAS, Playing an important role in the early years of the
2 Industrial Revolution in Pennsylvania and New England, the
3 Pennsylvania Rifle was also instrumental in the American fur
4 trade and was carried west and south by frontiersmen as they set
5 out to expand the boundaries of the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Rifle has been lauded for its
7 beauty and craftsmanship, as well as the ingenuity of the
8 skilled gunsmiths who crafted it; and

9 WHEREAS, The color combinations, carvings, engravings and
10 graceful slenderness of the Pennsylvania Rifle cause it to stand
11 alone and remain unchallenged as a primary example of early
12 American art; and

13 WHEREAS, Future generations deserve the right to appreciate
14 the heritage of this long-barreled rifle, born to artistic
15 gunsmiths in the communities of this Commonwealth.

16 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
17 hereby enacts as follows:

18 Section 1. Official State firearm.

19 The Pennsylvania Rifle is hereby designated as the official
20 firearm of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

21 Section 2. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect immediately.