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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS -
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
CAUCUS - CHAIRMAN
PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S
CAUCUS - CO-CHAIRMAN
HARDWOODS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL -
BOARD MEMBER
BOARD MEMBER OF CENTER FOR RURAL PA
- BOARD MEMBER

June 11 2025

TO: Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Members

FROM: Eddie Day Pashinski, Chairman
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

SUBJECT: Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Voting Meeting
June 16 2025

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will hold a meeting for the purpose of a voting meeting and any other business that may come before the committee on **Monday June 16 11:30 a.m.** in Room 515 Irvis Office Building:

- **HR5 Conklin** Celebrating the Anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Grange
- **HR221 Shusterman** Recognizing Pollinator Week June 16-22 2025
- **HB179 Lawrence** Whole Milk in Schools Act

If you are unable to attend this meeting, kindly submit a vote by designation form or an official leave of absence form. Teams link will be sent later.

Please contact Paula Hunter Phunter@pahouse.net with your attendance plans.

Thank you
Chairman Eddie Day Pashinski



AGENDA
HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday June 16 2025

11:30 a.m.

515 Irvis Office Building

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Attendance Roll Call
- Legislation
 - **HR5 Conklin** Celebrating the Anniversary of the Pennsylvania State Grange
 - **HR221 Shusterman** Recognizing Pollinator Week June 16-22 2025
 - **HB179 Lawrence** Whole Milk in Schools Act
- Adjourn

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HB0179 PN0858	Prepared By:	Destiny Zeiders 7177830686
Committee:	Agriculture & Rural Affairs	Executive Director:	Destiny Zeiders
Sponsor:	Lawrence, John		
Date:	5/28/2025		



A. Brief Concept

Allows Pennsylvania schools to give students the option to be able to purchase and consume Pennsylvania whole and two percent reduced fat milk.

C. Analysis of the Bill

HR179 creates the Whole Milk in Pennsylvania Schools Act by providing Pennsylvania schools the option to purchase offer whole and reduced fat milk to students if the milk was produced, processed and sold solely in Pennsylvania.

Definitions include:

"Pennsylvania milk." Raw milk produced by the milking of cows physically located within the geographic boundaries of this Commonwealth, transported to a dairy processing facility located within the geographic boundaries of this Commonwealth and processed as fluid milk into containers intended for distribution to consumers.

"Pennsylvania school." Any school district, cyber charter school, charter school, regional charter school, area career and technical school or intermediate unit located within this Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania milk that is offered for sale to a Pennsylvania school shall be deemed to be in the stream of intrastate commerce.

The school board or other governing entity of a Pennsylvania school may elect to utilize funds from State or local sources to obtain whole or reduced fat Pennsylvania milk. Civil action against the Federal Government or any other entity to recover funds withheld or revoked as a result of action on this matter taken by the school board or other governing entity of the Pennsylvania school shall be the duty of the Office of Attorney General.

Two years from the effective date, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, shall issue a report to the chairpersons of the Senate and House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

The report shall include all of the following:

- A list of Pennsylvania schools that have elected to provide or sell Pennsylvania milk.
- The approximate increase or decrease in the consumption of fluid milk at Pennsylvania schools since the effective date.
- Actions taken by the Commonwealth to promote whole milk and reduced fat milk availability in Pennsylvania schools.
- Any other information deemed relevant by the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Agriculture or the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board for the purposes of this act.

The Secretary of Education shall submit a notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin upon the occurrence of either an amendment or repeal of the National School Lunch Act or an update to the Dietary Guidelines for American which would permit the availability of whole milk or reduced fat milk, flavored or unflavored, in

elementary and secondary schools in this Commonwealth and the act shall expire on the date of publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Effective Date:

30 DAYS.



G. Relevant Existing Laws

No relevant existing state law.

FEDERAL LAW

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (79 P.L. 396, 60 Stat. 230) is a United States federal law that created the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to provide low-cost or free school lunch meals to qualified students through subsidies to schools. This act also outlines provisions for the availability of whole milk or reduced fat milk, flavored or unflavored, in elementary and secondary schools in this Commonwealth.

National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-445, 7 U.S.C. § 5341), the Secretaries of USDA and HHS are directed to jointly publish the Dietary Guidelines for Americans at least every five years. Dietary Guidelines for Americans published under section 301 outline what guidelines are permitted for milk in elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

2023-2024

HB 997 Lawrence-4.30.24-Unanimous Ag and Rural Affairs Vote-No further Action

SB297 Brooks-**Companion Senate Bill**-Voted from Senate Education Committee (9-2)-Referred to Senate Rules on March 8th, 2023.

2021-2022

HB2397-Lawrence-Unanimous Ag and Rural Affairs Vote--(196-2) House Floor Vote--No further action

This document is a summary of proposed legislation and is prepared only as general information for use by the Democratic Members and Staff of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The document does not represent the legislative intent of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and may not be utilized as such.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 179

Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY LAWRENCE, OWLETT, GREINER, HAMM, JAMES, KAUFFMAN,
KENYATTA, MOUL, PASHINSKI, REICHARD, SMITH, STAMBAUGH AND
ZIMMERMAN, MARCH 10, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
MARCH 10, 2025

AN ACT

1 Authorizing the provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in
2 Pennsylvania schools.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Whole Milk in
7 Pennsylvania Schools Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Pennsylvania milk." Raw milk produced by the milking of
13 cows physically located within the geographic boundaries of this
14 Commonwealth, transported to a dairy processing facility located
15 within the geographic boundaries of this Commonwealth and
16 processed as fluid milk into containers intended for
17 distribution to consumers.

1 "Pennsylvania school." A school district, cyber charter
2 school, charter school, regional charter school, area career and
3 technical school or intermediate unit located within this
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Reduced fat Pennsylvania milk." Pennsylvania milk
6 containing 2% milk fat. The term includes Pennsylvania milk that
7 has been flavored.

8 "Whole Pennsylvania milk." Pennsylvania milk containing at
9 least 3% milk fat. The term includes Pennsylvania milk that has
10 been flavored.

11 Section 3. Milk deemed in stream of intrastate commerce.

12 Pennsylvania milk that is offered for sale to a Pennsylvania
13 school shall be deemed to be in the stream of intrastate
14 commerce.

15 Section 4. Provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in
16 Pennsylvania schools.

17 Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, the
18 school board or other governing entity of a Pennsylvania school
19 may elect to utilize funds from State or local sources to obtain
20 whole Pennsylvania milk or reduced fat Pennsylvania milk to
21 provide or sell at the Pennsylvania school.

22 Section 5. Duties of Secretary of Education.

23 The Secretary of Education shall notify the superintendent or
24 chief administrator of each Pennsylvania school of the
25 provisions of this act.

26 Section 6. Right of civil action.

27 The Office of Attorney General shall, on behalf of a
28 Pennsylvania school, bring a civil action against the Federal
29 Government or any other entity to recover funds withheld or
30 revoked as a result of an action taken by the school board or

1 other governing entity of the Pennsylvania school under section
2 4.

3 Section 7. Reporting.

4 No later than two years after the effective date of this
5 section, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the
6 Secretary of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Milk Board, shall
7 issue a report to the chairperson and minority chairperson of
8 the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the Senate and
9 the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Agriculture and
10 Rural Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. The
11 report shall include all of the following information:

12 (1) A list of Pennsylvania schools that have elected to
13 provide or sell Pennsylvania milk under section 4.

14 (2) The approximate increase or decrease in the
15 consumption of fluid milk at Pennsylvania schools since the
16 effective date of this section.

17 (3) Actions taken by the Commonwealth to promote whole
18 milk and reduced fat milk availability in Pennsylvania
19 schools.

20 (4) Any other information deemed relevant by the
21 Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Agriculture or the
22 Pennsylvania Milk Board for the purposes of this act.

23 Section 8. Expiration.

24 (a) Notice.--The Secretary of Education shall transmit a
25 notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in
26 the next available issue of the Pennsylvania Bulletin upon the
27 occurrence of any of the following:

28 (1) The amendment or repeal of 42 U.S.C. § 1758(a)(2)(A)
29 (relating to program requirements), which results in the
30 availability of whole milk or reduced fat milk, flavored or

1 unflavored, in elementary and secondary schools in this
2 Commonwealth.

3 (2) An update to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
4 published under 7 U.S.C. § 5341 (relating to establishment of
5 dietary guidelines), which permits the availability of whole
6 milk or reduced fat milk, flavored or unflavored, in
7 elementary and secondary schools in this Commonwealth.

8 (b) Expiration.--This act shall expire on the date of
9 publication of the notice under subsection (a).

10 Section 9. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 30 days.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0005 PN0035	Prepared By:	Destiny Zeiders (717) 783-0686
Committee:	Agriculture & Rural Affairs	Executive Director:	Destiny Zeiders
Sponsor:	Conklin, Scott		
Date:	5/15/2025		



A. Brief Concept

A resolution designating September 18th 2025 and 2026, as "State Grange Day" in Pennsylvania to celebrate and recognize the 152 and 153-year history and legacy of the Grange as well as its impact on rural communities.

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Resolution 5 celebrates the 152nd and 153rd anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania State Grange on September 18, 1873, in Reading. The resolution also recognizes the many contributions of the Grange as it has evolved from a farmer's fraternity into a community service organization that promotes education, community service, while promoting the economic and political well-being of Pennsylvania's rural and agricultural communities.

Effective Date:

As adopted by the House.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

N/A.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes).

2023-2024

Similar Resolutions

HR148 Conklin (202-1)

HR316 Conklin-No action

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 5 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY CONKLIN, KHAN, NEILSON, SANCHEZ, PIELLI, HILL-
EVANS, CIRESI, MENTZER, SCHLOSSBERG, PICKETT, HOHENSTEIN,
HARKINS, PASHINSKI AND FREEMAN, JANUARY 10, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
JANUARY 10, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 18, 2025, and September 18, 2026, as
2 "State Grange Day" in Pennsylvania and celebrating the
3 Pennsylvania State Grange on its 152nd and 153rd
4 anniversaries.

5 WHEREAS, Founded after the Civil War in 1867, the Order of
6 Patrons of Husbandry, commonly known as the Grange, was
7 originally a fraternal order that encouraged families to band
8 together to promote the economic and political well-being of the
9 rural and agricultural communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Once established nationally, the Grange set out to
11 organize local chapters in communities across the states; and

12 WHEREAS, The idea of the Grange first came to Harrisburg on
13 April 3, 1868, however, it would be another three years until
14 this Commonwealth's first Grange would be established; and

15 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1871, Eagle Grange #1 in Clinton
16 Township, Lycoming County, this Commonwealth's first and still
17 active Grange, was organized by a group of local farmers, led by
18 Luke Eger, who had become concerned about the rising costs of

1 farming in the post-Civil War economy; and

2 WHEREAS, By 1873, the Grange movement really took hold in
3 this Commonwealth and on September 18 of that year, a meeting
4 was held in the City of Reading to organize the Pennsylvania
5 State Grange; and

6 WHEREAS, By the time the Pennsylvania State Grange was
7 organized, a total of 25 local Grange chapters had been formed
8 in Berks, Bucks, Chester, Crawford, Cumberland, Lancaster,
9 Lebanon, Lycoming, Monroe and Montgomery Counties; and

10 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been among the largest
11 membership states and has always assumed leadership roles for
12 National Grange initiatives; and

13 WHEREAS, Particularly noteworthy and uniquely Pennsylvania
14 Grange projects include the building of the Grange Memorial Hall
15 girls' dormitory on the campus of The Pennsylvania State
16 University in 1928, the "Milk of Human Kindness," which provided
17 more than 40,000 gallons of milk to children in Europe after
18 World War II and the 1960s' "Goats for Guatemala" project; and

19 WHEREAS, The popular Pennsylvania State Grange cookbook was
20 first published in 1925 specifically to raise money for the
21 Grange Memorial Hall project and had new editions published in
22 1951, 1972, 1984, 1992, 1997 and 2010; and

23 WHEREAS, Over the years, the Grange has evolved from its
24 roots as a farmer's fraternity to a multifaceted community
25 service organization by actively advocating for rural and
26 agricultural issues, embodying the spirit of fellowship and
27 promoting education and community service; and

28 WHEREAS, Today, this Commonwealth is home to approximately
29 170 local Grange chapters and includes nearly 5,700 dedicated
30 members of all ages; and

1 WHEREAS, These individuals, juniors, youths, young adults and
2 adults alike, tirelessly serve their communities, embody the
3 core values of the Grange and exemplify the unity and
4 perseverance that the founding members envisioned; and

5 WHEREAS, The story of the Grange continues to enrich our past
6 and shape our future as described in the Grange motto by
7 encouraging unity of purpose, liberty of actions and charity of
8 service; and

9 WHEREAS, This year and next year mark the 152nd and 153rd
10 anniversaries of the Pennsylvania State Grange, a significant
11 milestone that deserves recognition and celebration; therefore
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
14 September 18, 2025, and September 18, 2026, as "State Grange
15 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives celebrate the
17 152nd and 153rd anniversaries of the Pennsylvania State Grange
18 and recognize the profound contributions of the Grange to this
19 Commonwealth.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0221 PN1565	Prepared By:	Destiny Zeiders (717) 783-0686
Committee:	Agriculture & Rural Affairs	Executive Director:	Destiny Zeiders
Sponsor:	Shusterman, Melissa		
Date:	5/15/2025		



A. Brief Concept

A resolution designating June 16-22 2025, as "Pollinator Week" in Pennsylvania to recognize the importance of bees and other pollinators, as well as beekeepers, in the production of many of the foods produced in the Commonwealth.

C. Analysis of the Bill

House Resolution 221 promotes the contributions of bees and other pollinators to Pennsylvania's habitats and economy; as well as the role of the Commonwealth and producers in their protection through enforcement of The Bee Law. The resolution highlights how pollinators are critical to the health of our forests and grasslands while providing benefits for our environment needed for health, biodiverse ecosystems.

Additionally, the Resolution recognizes the importance of collaboration between the Pennsylvania Apiary Advisory Board, Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Delaware Valley University and the Department of Agriculture in order to promote pollination, beekeeping and the production of honey.

Finally, the Resolution resolves that the House congratulate those listed above and encourages the Governor to issue a proclamation in recognition of Pollinator Week in Pennsylvania.

Effective Date:

As adopted by the House.

G. Relevant Existing Laws

The resolution recognizes the importance of Pennsylvania's Bee Law (Act of December 12, 1994, P.L. 903, No. 131)(3 Pa.C.S.A. §§ 2101 – 2117), which was passed in 1994 through a collaborative effort between the Pennsylvania Apiary Advisory Board, Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry.

E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

2019-2020

HR385-Matzie Adopted Unanimously 6.12.2019 (196-0)

2023-2024

HR132-Matzie-Adopted 6.22.2023 (202-1)

HR400 Matzie--Adopted 6.12.2024 (200-1)

the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and may not be utilized as such.



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 221 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, MATZIE, CONKLIN, ISAACSON, WEBSTER,
GUENST, JAMES, KHAN, WAXMAN, PIELLI, HANBIDGE, GREINER,
VENKAT, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, PROBST, SANCHEZ, MALAGARI,
WARREN, SCHMITT, HADDOCK, MERSKI, NEILSON, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ,
RIVERA AND O'MARA, APRIL 30, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
MAY 1, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of June 16 through 22, 2025, as "Pollinator
2 Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pollinator species such as birds and insects,
4 including bees, are essential partners of farmers and ranchers
5 in producing much of our food supply; and

6 WHEREAS, Pollination plays a vital role in the health of our
7 national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and
8 wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources and recreational
9 opportunities as well as enhanced economic development
10 opportunities for communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Pollinator species, including bees, provide
12 significant environmental benefits that are necessary for
13 maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems; and

14 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has managed wildlife habitats and
15 public lands, including forests and grasslands, for decades,
16 including enacting the first beekeeping law in 1921; and

1 WHEREAS, The Bee Law, which appears in Chapter 21 of Title 3
2 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, and other laws and
3 regulations provide producers with conservation assistance to
4 promote wise conservation stewardship, including the protection
5 and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working
6 lands and wildlands, and, through the Department of Agriculture,
7 register and regulate each apiary; and

8 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, since
9 its inception in 1904, works with the Department of Agriculture
10 to promote pollination, beekeeping and the production of honey;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Apiary Advisory Board is made up of
13 industry leaders and collaborates with The Pennsylvania State
14 University and other Federal, State and private partners to
15 enhance the protection of Pennsylvania's plant and pollinator
16 resources; and

17 WHEREAS, The Penn State Cooperative Extension provides
18 educational courses and information to the businesses and
19 residents of this Commonwealth who maintain and use beehives to
20 facilitate best management practices for bee health; and

21 WHEREAS, The Delaware Valley University's Office of
22 Continuing and Professional Studies provides educational
23 opportunities for novice and experienced beekeepers to promote
24 beekeeping; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
26 week of June 16 through 22, 2025, as "Pollinator Week" in
27 Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives congratulate the
29 Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Apiary Advisory Board,
30 Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, Penn State

1 Cooperative Extension and Delaware Valley University for their
2 cooperative efforts to promote pollination, beekeeping and the
3 production of honey; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Governor
5 to issue a proclamation urging all residents to recognize this
6 observance; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
8 the Governor, the Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania
9 State Beekeepers Association and the Pennsylvania Apiary
10 Advisory Board.