



House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee

Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 30th, 2026

Call of the Chair

515 Irvis Office Building

Call to Order

Roll Call

[HR 580; PN 3712 \(Bizzarro\)](#) – designates July 18 as Piping Plover Day
Any other business before the committee

Adjournment



Environmental & Natural Resource Protection

Committee

State Representative Greg Vitali
Democratic Chairman

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/29/2026

TO: House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee Members

FROM: Representative Greg Vitali, Majority Chairman
House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee

RE: Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee Voting Meeting –
Monday, June 30th, 2026

The House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee will hold a voting meeting on **Tuesday, June 30th, 2026, at the Call of the Chair in 515 Irvis Office Building.**

The purpose of this voting meeting will be to consider the following legislation and any other business that may come before the committee.

- **HR 580; PN 3712 (Bizzarro)** – designates July 18 as Piping Plover Day

Please contact Hayley Shupe at 717-787-7647 or hshupe@pahouse.net with any questions. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please submit an Official Vote by Designation Form prior to the start of the meeting.

Thank you,

GV/hs

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 580 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, JUNE 25, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION, JUNE 26, 2026

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating July 18, 2026, as "Piping Plover Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is a
4 shorebird endemic to North America in three populations which
5 are protected under the Endangered Species Act, as amended, by
6 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

7 WHEREAS, Presque Isle State Park is a designated Important
8 Bird Area and one of the most significant sites in the Great
9 Lakes region for shorebirds, including plovers; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Conservation and Natural
11 Resource's habitat management at Presque Isle is a collaborative
12 effort among State and Federal agencies and conservation
13 partners that combines habitat restoration, active monitoring,
14 protective measures and public education to support the recovery
15 of the Great Lakes piping plover population in Pennsylvania; and

16 WHEREAS, Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park is a Natural
17 Heritage Area identified as critical habitat for species and
18 natural communities of concern, supporting at least 53 species

1 of concern in this Commonwealth; and

2 WHEREAS, There are an estimated 4,000 piping plover pairs
3 worldwide; and

4 WHEREAS, The piping plover is a native shorebird to this
5 Commonwealth, requiring sparsely vegetated and wide beach
6 habitat with low human disturbance on Lake Erie; and

7 WHEREAS, Recreational beach use and development contributed
8 to piping plover population declines across the Great Lakes; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1986, the Great Lakes piping plover population,
10 of which Pennsylvania is a part, was protected as endangered
11 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; and

12 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes piping plover population was 88
13 breeding pairs in 2025; and

14 WHEREAS, The piping plover was extirpated from this
15 Commonwealth by the mid-1950s; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Fish and Wildlife Service
17 designated 35 critical habitat units for Great Lakes piping
18 plover in 2001, including 3.7 miles along Lake Erie at Presque
19 Isle State Park; and

20 WHEREAS, After Federal protection, significant piping plover
21 research led to successful conservation that steadily increased
22 the population throughout the Great Lakes; and

23 WHEREAS, Young piping plovers began visiting historic habitat
24 in the early 2000s, including Presque Isle State Park; and

25 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Game Commission sought to
26 understand limiting factors to piping plovers returning as
27 nesting species in this Commonwealth; and

28 WHEREAS, The Presque Isle State Park Management Plan
29 highlights piping plover conservation needs; and

30 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Game Commission contracted the

1 Presque Isle State Park Piping Plover Recovery Assessment,
2 completed in 2007, that outlined needs to enhance recolonization
3 potential; and

4 WHEREAS, Presque Isle State Park and Western Pennsylvania
5 Conservancy removed invasive vegetation and enhanced piping
6 plover habitat in 2011 and thereafter; and

7 WHEREAS, Habitat protection and enhancement for piping plover
8 supports many rare plants and other beach-associated animals,
9 such as State endangered common tern, the federally threatened
10 red knot and dozens of migratory shorebirds in decline; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2017, two piping plover pairs returned to nest at
12 Presque Isle State Park, 62 years after the last known nesting
13 in Pennsylvania; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2019, the Pennsylvania Game Commission designated
15 the piping plover as endangered; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has supported 20 piping plover pairs
17 and fledged 47 chicks through 2025; and

18 WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 10th consecutive nesting season for
19 piping plovers in Pennsylvania; and

20 WHEREAS, An estimated 5 million people visit Presque Isle
21 State Park annually; and

22 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Piping Plover and Common Tern
23 Partnership is celebrating the 10th nesting anniversary
24 milestone and Pennsylvania's contribution to Great Lakes piping
25 plover recovery during the Pennsylvania Piping Plover Fest on
26 July 18, 2026, at Presque Isle State Park; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate July
28 18, 2026, as "Piping Plover Day" in Pennsylvania.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No:	HR0580 PN3712	Prepared By:	Evan Franzese (717) 783-4043
Committee:	Environmental & Natural Resource Protection	Executive Director:	Evan Franzese
Sponsor:	Bizzarro, Ryan		
Date:	6/29/2026		

A. Brief Concept

Designates July 18, 2026, as Piping Plover Day in Pennsylvania.

C. Analysis of the Bill

HR 580 designates July 18, 2026, as Piping Plover Day in Pennsylvania.

Effective Date:

G. Relevant Existing Laws

The Pennsylvania Game Commission designated the piping plover as endangered in 2019. The species is also protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

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

This resolution has not been introduced in previous sessions.

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.