

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 170 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 14 through 19, 2009, as
2 "Lifeline Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In today's highly interconnected world, telephones
4 provide a lifeline to emergency help and a vital link to
5 government services, community resources, friends and family;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Not everyone can afford the cost of home telephone
8 service; and

9 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the
10 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission have joined in
11 collaborative efforts with telecommunications service providers
12 to make telephone service more affordable for low-income
13 consumers by providing a discount on the connection fee and
14 monthly charges for basic telephone service; and

15 WHEREAS, The Link-Up America and Lifeline Assistance programs
16 offer tremendous benefits for eligible consumers and make basic
17 telephone service more affordable; and

18 WHEREAS, The Link-Up program provides a discount to consumers

1 on the installation of telephone service in their homes; and

2 WHEREAS, The Lifeline program provides a discount to eligible
3 low-income customers on their monthly telephone bills; and

4 WHEREAS, Consumers should not be without local telephone
5 service because they cannot afford it, and, therefore, the
6 promotion of the Link-Up and Lifeline programs is imperative to
7 ensure that all citizens have access to affordable basic local
8 telephone service; and

9 WHEREAS, The FCC, the National Association of Regulatory
10 Utility Commissioners, the National Association of State Utility
11 Consumer Advocates, other Federal, State and local agencies,
12 organizations and telecommunications companies are committed to
13 increasing awareness about the availability of the Link-Up and
14 Lifeline programs and are encouraging eligible citizens to sign
15 up for the programs; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of September 14
17 through 19, 2009, as "Lifeline Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania
18 and call upon government agencies, industry leaders and consumer
19 advocates to educate residents about programs for telephone
20 connectivity during "National Lifeline Awareness Week" and
21 further initiate and promote outreach events during this special
22 week.