

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 886 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY HAHN, APRIL 6, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 6, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 26, 2014 (P.L.783, No.73), entitled "An  
 2 act designating the Piper J-3 Cub as the official State  
 3 aircraft of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and designating  
 4 the Pennsylvania Long Rifle as the official firearm of the  
 5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," providing for findings and  
 6 declarations; and making editorial changes.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of June 26, 2014 (P.L.783, No.73),  
 10 entitled "An act designating the Piper J-3 Cub as the official  
 11 State aircraft of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and  
 12 designating the Pennsylvania Long Rifle as the official firearm  
 13 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," is amended by adding a  
 14 section to read:

15 Section 1. Findings and declarations.

16 The General Assembly finds and declares that:

17 (1) The Piper J-3 Cub is a small, simple, light  
 18 aircraft, recognizable by its famous yellow fuselage and  
 19 black trim, that was built in the City of Lock Haven, Clinton  
 20 County, between 1937 and 1947 by Piper Aircraft.

1       (2) During that time period, 19,076 Cubs were produced  
2 in Lock Haven.

3       (3) With tandem seating, the Cub was intended for flight  
4 training but became one of the most popular and best-known  
5 light aircraft of all time among the military and civilian  
6 population.

7       (4) The Cub's simplicity, affordability and popularity  
8 invoke comparisons to the Ford Model T automobile.

9       (5) The Cub was modified and used by the United States  
10 Armed Forces during World War II for reconnaissance and as a  
11 hedgehopper over all kinds of terrain to carry personnel,  
12 critical supplies and important messages for the artillery  
13 and tank corps and cavalry and infantry.

14       (6) Pennsylvania's gunmaking tradition has played an  
15 important role in the development of the United States of  
16 America.

17       (7) During Pennsylvania's early history, settlers placed  
18 chief reliance on their rifles for sustenance, security and  
19 survival.

20       (8) The Pennsylvania Long Rifle, a unique firearm that  
21 was different in principle and outline from any other weapon  
22 in the world, was first developed by skilled gunsmiths in the  
23 southeastern counties of Pennsylvania, as well as the  
24 Moravian communities of Christian's Spring, Northampton  
25 County.

26       (9) The Pennsylvania Long Rifle was the first truly  
27 American rifle and, due to its exceptional accuracy and  
28 range, was considered the greatest achievement in the  
29 development of firearms during the 18th century.

30       (10) The Pennsylvania Long Rifle was also instrumental

1 in the American fur trade and was carried west and south by  
2 frontiersmen as they set out to expand the boundaries of the  
3 nation.

4 (11) The Pennsylvania Long Rifle has been lauded for its  
5 beauty and craftsmanship, as well as the ingenuity of the  
6 skilled gunsmiths who crafted it.

7 (12) The color combinations, carvings, engravings and  
8 graceful slenderness of the Pennsylvania Long Rifle cause it  
9 to stand alone and remain unchallenged as a primary example  
10 of early American art.

11 (13) Future generations deserve the right to appreciate  
12 the heritage of this long-barreled rifle, born to artistic  
13 gunsmiths in the communities of the Commonwealth of  
14 Pennsylvania.

15 Section 2. Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the act are renumbered to  
16 read:

17 Section [1.] 2. Official State aircraft.

18 The aircraft known as the Piper J-3 Cub is selected,  
19 designated and adopted as the official State aircraft of the  
20 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

21 Section [2.] 3. Official State firearm.

22 The Pennsylvania Long Rifle is hereby designated as the  
23 official State firearm of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

24 Section [3.] 4. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect immediately.

26 Section 3. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the  
27 addition of section 1 of the act supersede the findings and  
28 declarations of the act as originally enacted.

29 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.