

No. 2001-102

AN ACT

SB 230

Designating December 15 of each year as "Bill of Rights Day."

WHEREAS, On December 15, 1791, the Bill of Rights was ratified by three-fourths of the states, making the Bill of Rights the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The Bill of Rights specifies the basic rights that all Americans hold so dear:

ARTICLE I

Freedom of Religion, Speech and Press. Right of Petition. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE II

Right of People to Bear Arms. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

ARTICLE III

Quartering of Troops. No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

ARTICLE IV

Persons and Houses to be Secure From Unreasonable Searches and Seizures. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE V

Trials for Crimes. Compensation for Private Property Taken for Public Use. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

ARTICLE VI

Rights of Accused Persons in Criminal Prosecutions. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

ARTICLE VII

Rights in Civil Suits. In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

ARTICLE VIII

Excessive Bail, Fines and Punishments Prohibited. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

ARTICLE IX

Reserved Rights of People. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

ARTICLE X

Powers not Delegated, Reserved to States and People. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people;
and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, the birthplace of the Constitution of the United States, was the eighth state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

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

Section 1. Bill of Rights Day.

In recognition of the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, which was ratified on December 15, 1791, December 15 of each year is hereby designated as "Bill of Rights Day." The Governor is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation each year recognizing the significance of the Bill of Rights in our lives and calling upon the people of this Commonwealth to commemorate the day with appropriate ceremonies and educational activities.

Section 2. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 17th day of December, A.D. 2001.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER