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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 523 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY MALONEY, ANDERSON, BANTA, COOK, GREINER, KAUFFMAN,  
PICKETT, PUGH, SMITH, STAATS AND COOPER, MAY 11, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, MAY 13, 2026

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the Monday after Thanksgiving as "Pennsylvania  
2 Sportsmen's Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania sportsmen, including hunters, anglers,  
4 boaters and trappers, have long contributed to this  
5 Commonwealth's outdoor heritage, conservation ethic and way of  
6 life; and

7 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's hunting, fishing and boating  
8 programs administered through the Pennsylvania Game Commission  
9 and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission receive no State  
10 General Fund tax revenue, but are supported by Pennsylvania  
11 hunters, anglers, boaters and trappers through licenses,  
12 permits, registrations, fees and related Federal excise tax  
13 revenues; and

14 WHEREAS, These user-based dollars support wildlife and  
15 fisheries management, habitat conservation, public access,  
16 education, enforcement and sporting traditions; and

17 WHEREAS, Hunting, fishing, boating and trapping are  
18 traditions shared among families, neighbors, friends and

1 generations of Pennsylvanians; and

2 WHEREAS, Generations of hunters have learned safety,  
3 patience, responsibility, respect for wildlife and respect for  
4 private and public lands while hunting alongside parents,  
5 grandparents, relatives, mentors and friends; and

6 WHEREAS, The future of hunting depends upon families, mentors  
7 and hunting groups passing along knowledge, ethics of  
8 responsible conservation, skills and traditions to younger  
9 generations; and

10 WHEREAS, For many Pennsylvanians, gathering at deer camp  
11 before the opening of firearms deer season is a cherished  
12 tradition rooted in family, fellowship, storytelling,  
13 preparation and shared respect for the outdoors; and

14 WHEREAS, The opening of firearms deer season, historically  
15 observed for many years on the Monday after Thanksgiving, has  
16 long been meaningful to families, rural communities, schools,  
17 workplaces and local businesses across this Commonwealth; and

18 WHEREAS, As the timing of that opening has changed in recent  
19 years, the importance of preserving hunting traditions, deer  
20 camp and multigenerational participation remains clear; and

21 WHEREAS, The traditions of hunting, fishing, boating and  
22 trapping support small businesses throughout Pennsylvania,  
23 including outfitters, guides, sporting goods stores,  
24 campgrounds, restaurants and lodging establishments; therefore  
25 be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
27 Monday after Thanksgiving as "Pennsylvania Sportsmen's Day" in  
28 Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize  
30 Pennsylvania sportsmen for their support of wildlife management,

- 1 habitat conservation, small businesses, outdoor recreation,
- 2 family traditions, mentoring younger generations and preserving
- 3 Pennsylvania's sporting heritage.