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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 313 Session of  
2003

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INTRODUCED BY SCHRODER, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES,  
BENNINGHOFF, BROWNE, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA,  
CREIGHTON, DALEY, GEIST, GEORGE, GERGELY, GOODMAN, HARHAI,  
HERSHEY, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER,  
LEH, LEWIS, MAJOR, McNAUGHTON, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA,  
REICHLEY, ROHRER, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SATHER, SCAVELLO,  
B. SMITH, E. Z. TAYLOR, TIGUE, WANSACZ, WATSON, WILT,  
WOJNAROSKI AND YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 11, 2003

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 11, 2003

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A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for  
2 coastal states legislation entitled "Freedom to Fish."

3 WHEREAS, Many coastal states have introduced legislation  
4 entitled "Freedom to Fish"; and

5 WHEREAS, Thousands of Pennsylvanians fish in salt water  
6 throughout the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Recreational saltwater anglers were among the first  
8 conservationists and have long demonstrated a commitment to  
9 conservation through abidance with minimum size requirements,  
10 bag limits and the use of rod and reel fishing gear; and

11 WHEREAS, Rod and reel fishing is a highly selective,  
12 inherently inefficient method of catching fish that has not led  
13 to overfishing; and

14 WHEREAS, The "Freedom to Fish" legislation prohibits closures

1 to rod and reel fishing unless there is a clear indication that  
2 it is the cause of a specific conservation problem; and

3 WHEREAS, This legislation would establish requirements for  
4 closures, including periodic review, scientifically based size  
5 restrictions for any closure and provisions to reopen areas to  
6 rod and reel fishing whenever the basis for the closure no  
7 longer exists; and

8 WHEREAS, The interests of recreational anglers and the direct  
9 and secondarily related businesses supporting the industry are  
10 economically important; and

11 WHEREAS, "Freedom to Fish" legislation requires specific  
12 conservation problems to be identified and specific measures to  
13 be taken to address the problem rather than having arbitrary  
14 closures based on emotion and anti-fishing agendas; therefore be  
15 it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
17 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respectfully support "Freedom to  
18 Fish" legislation which is designed to continue to safeguard  
19 public access to our public resources.