



SPONSOR: Sen. Paradee & Rep. Lynn & Rep. Dorsey Walker  
Sens. Bonini, Hocker, Lawson, Lopez, Wilson; Reps.  
Carson, Griffith, Yearick

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 119

MARKING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOVER'S ELIZABETH W. MURPHEY SCHOOL.

1 WHEREAS, the Elizabeth W. Murphey School was established in the City of Dover, Delaware in October 1922  
2 and is this year marking the 100th Anniversary of its founding; and

3 WHEREAS, the school was founded by Mr. Sanford S. Murphey as a tribute to his mother, Elizabeth W.  
4 Murphey, a longtime resident of Dover; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphey had grown up in Dover but moved to Denver, Colorado as a young man, where he  
6 became a successful businessman working in the coal industry, becoming in the process widely respected not only for his  
7 business success but also for his compassion for his employees, stating late in his life that he had never heard of a strike in  
8 his mines; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphey returned to Dover and founded the institution which he called a "school," even though  
10 it was not a formal educational establishment as such, because, as he said, "I wish [the Murphey School] to be free from  
11 those unhappy associations which so often have been connected with orphanages and children, and furthermore because I  
12 conceive the rearing of children in all aspects as an educational work"; and

13 WHEREAS, he based the name on his belief that the education of children was a twenty-four hour job, not simply  
14 an activity that took place inside a classroom; and

15 WHEREAS, in founding the Murphey School, Mr. Murphey noted:  
16 "I am devoting the means which I have been able to accumulate during a lifetime of active effort. It is my life's work.  
17 Through it I choose to honor the memory of my mother in the community where she lived and to render some service in the  
18 community in which I was born and spent my early life."

19 "It is my desire that this institution shall be a fostering home where children who would otherwise be neglected."; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphey said that the purpose of the school was to meet as much as possible the needs of every  
21 child in its care in order that they be prepared to meet and deal with whatever problems their future lives would entail, and  
22 that they would become the kinds of citizens "of whom all will be proud"; and

23 WHEREAS, today the Murphey School is a nonprofit organization which provides residential group care and  
24 transitional care for homeless children ages six to 18, and sometimes to age 22; and

25 WHEREAS, contact between children and their families is encouraged, and each youth beyond the age of 16 is  
26 offered a mentor to address job skills, money management, interpersonal skills, transportation, and educational planning;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the school's independent/transitional living program also works with high school graduates to  
29 continue these services, utilizing two homes dedicated to providing up to eight 18-to-22-year-old young adults who need  
30 housing as they work toward independence; and

31 WHEREAS, the keynote of the Murphey School is the individual child who has a distinct personality, and its  
32 residential programs are designed to provide supervision and direction to youth referred for care throughout Delaware, with  
33 referrals for admission being accepted from the Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families, which  
34 monitors and licenses the facility; and

35 WHEREAS, residents in the program must be eligible to attend area schools, with participation in school-related  
36 activities being encouraged; and

37 WHEREAS, children are professionally assessed, and tutoring and therapeutic support services are provided as  
38 needed; and

39 WHEREAS, the school is overseen by an appointed board of directors who serve without compensation and  
40 provide financial and program guidelines to the executive director and other staff members; and

41 WHEREAS, the school campus consists of a complex of Georgian-Revival-style structures housing dormitories  
42 and office and meeting space; and

43 WHEREAS, the Elizabeth W. Murphey School has done an extremely effective job over the past century of  
44 fulfilling its founder's hopes that "every child in its care be prepared to meet and deal with whatever problems their future  
45 lives would entail, and that they would become the kinds of citizens 'of whom all will be proud'"; and

46 WHEREAS, among the many alumnae of the Murphey School who have gone on to lead worthwhile and  
47 successful lives is one man who served for many years as the mayor of Dover; and

48 WHEREAS, this remarkable facility has throughout its long history of service to the youth of the First State been  
49 nearly unique in the services it provides to its young residents, who come together to form their own family, as shown by a  
50 story told in a recent speech to the Capital City Rotary Club by Murphey School staffer Eddie Cregar of how students help  
51 each other, giving the example of a 17-year-old teaching a six-year-old how to tie his shoelaces; and

52 WHEREAS, the Murphey School has for a century embodied the vision of Mr. Sanford Sayre Murphey in  
53 establishing it in the autumn of 1922.

54 NOW, THEREFORE:

55 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 151st General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
56 Representatives concurring therein, that the members do hereby extend warmest thanks and commendation to all those who  
57 are and have been a part of the Elizabeth W. Murphey School family over its century of service to the young people of our  
58 state.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members extend to all those involved with the Murphey School heartfelt  
60 best wishes for many more years of success in carrying out Mr. Murphey's vision of service.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this concurrent resolution be presented, upon its passage, to  
62 the students, staff and directors of the Elizabeth W. Murphey School of Dover, Delaware.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution extends the congratulations and best wishes of the members of the Delaware General Assembly to the students, staff, and directors of the Elizabeth W. Murphey School in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the school in October 1922.

Author: Senator Paradee