



SPONSOR: Rep. Morrison & Sen. Sturgeon
Reps. Baumbach, Longhurst; Sens. Hoffner, S. McBride,
Pinkney

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

DESIGNATING MARCH 30, 2023, AS ATHEIST AWARENESS DAY IN DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, our nation was founded upon a belief in freedom of religion with the U.S. Constitution enshrining
2 this as a guaranteed right in the First Amendment; and

3 WHEREAS, about 7% of Americans identify as atheist, about 7% identify as agnostic, and another 15% do not
4 identify with any specific religion; and

5 WHEREAS, we see the number of Americans who identify as atheist, agnostic, or unaffiliated with any religion
6 continues to grow, especially among young Americans; and

7 WHEREAS, over 1.1 billion people across the world identify as atheist, agnostic, or unaffiliated with any specific
8 religion; and

9 WHEREAS, atheists believe that the rights of anyone to practice their religion of choice should not be infringed
10 upon or hampered in any way, and also that no one should be forced to adhere to or be governed by religious beliefs; and

11 WHEREAS, throughout history up to and including today, atheists, agnostics, and other non-religious groups and
12 individuals have been persecuted for their beliefs or for refusing to adopt or adhere to the beliefs of specific religions; and

13 WHEREAS, the constitutions of seven states ban atheists from holding elected office (although these bans are
14 unconstitutional at the federal level and hence unenforceable); and

15 WHEREAS, a law in one state bans atheists from serving as witnesses at trials (although this law is
16 unconstitutional at the federal level and hence unenforceable); and

17 WHEREAS, atheists, agnostics, and secular humanists have often led efforts to maintain the separation of church
18 and state guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution; and

19 WHEREAS, atheists and agnostics have contributed to every aspect of American society including science,
20 technology, education, medicine, government, law, psychology, sociology, linguistics, journalism, philosophy, music,
21 literature, art, entertainment; and

22 WHEREAS, a significant portion of Americans practicing in certain distinctive disciplines identify as atheists,
23 including 29% of scientists and 12% of doctors; and

24 WHEREAS, proportionately, atheists are greatly underrepresented at all levels of elected office, and even once
25 elected, many fear publicly identifying themselves as atheists; and

26 WHEREAS, atheists yearn and work for the best for humanity and the world, as do so many other individuals; and

27 WHEREAS, there are thousands of religions in the world and their beliefs are generally well-known and well-
28 respected while the beliefs of atheists are often ignored and even looked down upon; and

29 WHEREAS, many Delawareans and other Americans from all walks seek to shed light upon the existence and
30 beliefs of atheists.

31 NOW, THEREFORE:

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Delaware House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of
33 Delaware, the Senate concurring therein, that March 30th is hereby recognized as Atheist Awareness Day in Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution designates March 30, 2023, as Atheist Awareness Day in Delaware.