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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 895 Session of  
2009

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INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, M. WHITE, RAFFERTY, WARD, BOSCOLA, WAUGH,  
YAW, O'PAKE, BRUBAKER, PIPPY, WONDERLING, D. WHITE, ALLOWAY  
AND FOLMER, MAY 28, 2009

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 28, 2009

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AN ACT

1 Designating the Pennsylvania Rifle as the official firearm of  
2 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's gun making tradition has played an  
4 important role in the development of the United States of  
5 America; and

6 WHEREAS, During Pennsylvania's early history, settlers placed  
7 chief reliance on their rifles for sustenance, security and  
8 survival; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania rifle, a unique firearm that was  
10 different in principle and outline from any other weapon in the  
11 world, was developed by skilled gunsmiths in the Moravian  
12 communities of Christian's Spring, Northampton County, as well  
13 as by artistic riflemaker Martin Meylin, in Willow Street,  
14 Lancaster County; and

15 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Rifle was the first truly American  
16 firearm and, due to its exceptional accuracy and range, was  
17 considered the greatest achievement in the development of

1 firearms during the 18th century; and

2 WHEREAS, Playing an important role in the early years of the  
3 Industrial Revolution in Pennsylvania and New England, the  
4 Pennsylvania Rifle was also instrumental in the American fur  
5 trade and was carried west and south by frontiersmen as they set  
6 out to expand the boundaries of the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Rifle has been lauded for its  
8 beauty and craftsmanship, as well as the ingenuity of the  
9 skilled gunsmiths who crafted it; and

10 WHEREAS, The color combinations, carvings, engravings and  
11 graceful slenderness of the Pennsylvania Rifle cause it to stand  
12 alone and remain unchallenged as a primary example of early  
13 American art; and

14 WHEREAS, Future generations deserve the right to appreciate  
15 the heritage of this long-barreled rifle, born to artistic  
16 gunsmiths in the communities of the Commonwealth of  
17 Pennsylvania.

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

20 Section 1. Official State firearm.

21 The Pennsylvania Rifle is hereby designated as the official  
22 firearm of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

23 Section 2. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect immediately.