

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

H. C. R. No. 8

Representative Perales

**Cosponsors: Representatives Slesnick, Buchy, Antani, Ruhl, Butler, Henne, Maag,
Thompson, O'Brien, S., Hood, Reece, Bishoff, Sheehy, Kraus, Grossman, Blessing,
Schaffer**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To repudiate the claim by the State of Connecticut that 1
Gustave Whitehead successfully flew a powered, heavier 2
than air machine of his own design on August 14, 1901, 3
or on any other date. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, From time to time some individuals, publishers, 5
and lawmakers revive the claim that Gustave Whitehead (1874- 6
1927), a resident of Connecticut, made a sustained, powered 7
flight in a heavier than air machine at Bridgeport on August 14, 8
1901, two years before the Wright brothers of Dayton, Ohio, flew 9
on December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; and 10

WHEREAS, The Governor of Connecticut signed into law on 11
June 26, 2013, "an Act Concerning Government Administration"; 12
and 13

WHEREAS, The law replaces the Wright brothers with Gustave 14
Whitehead as the person to be honored for the first powered 15
flight on Connecticut's Powered Flight Day each year; and 16

WHEREAS, The law provides no evidence that Gustave 17
Whitehead ever designed, built, and flew a successful powered 18
flying machine; and 19

WHEREAS, Scholarly research by respected and academically 20
credentialed historians over many decades has found no evidence 21
to substantiate the Whitehead claims; and 22

WHEREAS, A publicized digital image, purported to be an 23
enhanced copy of a photograph that shows Gustave Whitehead's 24
1901 machine in flight, reveals only indistinct shapes; and 25

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly previously 26
repudiated a similar claim in 1985; and 27

WHEREAS, The states of Ohio and North Carolina share and 28
cherish the legacy of the Wright brothers, who lived and built 29
the first powered airplane in Dayton, Ohio, and made their first 30
powered flight on December 17, 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North 31
Carolina; and 32

WHEREAS, The United States National Park Service preserves 33
the factual history of the invention of the airplane and the 34
first powered flights in the Wright Brothers National Memorial 35
at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, and the Dayton Aviation 36
Heritage National Historical Park and the National Aviation 37
Heritage Area in southwestern Ohio; now therefore be it 38

RESOLVED, That Gustave Whitehead did not fly a powered, 39
heavier than air machine of his own design on August 14, 1901, 40
or on any other date; and be it further 41

RESOLVED, That people from throughout the country and the 42
world be encouraged to learn about the invention of the airplane 43
and the first powered flights by visiting the Wright Brothers 44
National Memorial in North Carolina and the Dayton Aviation 45
Heritage National Historical Park and the National Aviation 46
Heritage Area in Ohio. 47