

**As Reported by the House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee**

**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, Dovilla, DeVitis, Dever, Green, Boose**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To repudiate the claim by the State of Connecticut that 1
Gustave Whitehead successfully flew a powered, 2
heavier than air machine of his own design on August 3
14, 1901, 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 8
14, 1901, two years before the Wright brothers of Dayton, 9
Ohio, flew on December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North 10
Carolina; and 11

WHEREAS, The Governor of Connecticut signed into law on 12
June 26, 2013, "an Act Concerning Government Administration"; 13
and 14

WHEREAS, The law replaces the Wright brothers with 15
Gustave Whitehead as the person to be honored for the first 16

powered flight on Connecticut's Powered Flight Day each year; 17
and 18

WHEREAS, The law provides no evidence that Gustave 19
Whitehead ever designed, built, and flew a successful powered 20
flying machine; and 21

WHEREAS, Scholarly research by respected and academically 22
credentialed historians over many decades has found no evidence 23
to substantiate the Whitehead claims; and 24

WHEREAS, A publicized digital image, purported to be an 25
enhanced copy of a photograph that shows Gustave Whitehead's 26
1901 machine in flight, reveals only indistinct shapes; and 27

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly previously 28
repudiated a similar claim in 1985; and 29

WHEREAS, The states of Ohio and North Carolina share and 30
cherish the legacy of the Wright brothers, who lived and built 31
the first powered airplane in Dayton, Ohio, and made their first 32
powered flight on December 17, 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North 33
Carolina; and 34

WHEREAS, The United States National Park Service preserves 35
the factual history of the invention of the airplane and the 36
first powered flights in the Wright Brothers National Memorial 37
at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, and the Dayton Aviation 38
Heritage National Historical Park and the National Aviation 39
Heritage Area in southwestern Ohio; now therefore be it 40

RESOLVED, That Gustave Whitehead did not fly a powered, 41
heavier than air machine of his own design on August 14, 1901, 42
or on any other date; and be it further 43

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

Heritage National Historical Park and the National Aviation	48
Heritage Area in Ohio.	49