
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 685 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY ROZZI, KINSEY, NEILSON, READSHAW, MURT,
DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, MILLARD, HENNESSEY, DEAN, HILL-EVANS,
KAUFFMAN, VAZQUEZ, MARSICO, PASHINSKI, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA,
YOUNGBLOOD, ROEBUCK, J. McNEILL, SCHWEYER AND BRADFORD,
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 27, 2018, as "Dominican Republic
2 Independence Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On February 27, 2018, the Dominican Republic will
4 celebrate the anniversary of its independence from Haiti in
5 1844; and

6 WHEREAS, Before the Dominican Republic declared its
7 independence, the shared island of Hispaniola had been under
8 Haitian rule for more than two decades after centuries of
9 colonialism, first by the Spanish and then by the French; and

10 WHEREAS, Nationalist Juan Pablo Duarte helped organize the
11 war against the Haitian regime and is considered one of the
12 Dominican Republic's founding fathers; and

13 WHEREAS, "Dominican Republic Independence Day" coincides with
14 Carnival, which is celebrated the entire month of February with
15 parades, competitions and spirited events; and

16 WHEREAS, The Dominican Republic is an important partner to

1 the United States in hemispheric affairs due to its standing as
2 the Caribbean's largest economy and second-largest country in
3 terms of population and land mass, its large bilateral trade
4 with the United States and its proximity to the United States
5 and other Caribbean nations; and

6 WHEREAS, The family unit within Dominican society is
7 incredibly important and has formed the basis of stability
8 throughout all of the Dominican Republic's political and
9 economic upheaval; and

10 WHEREAS, Whenever possible, the extended family, which
11 usually encompasses three generations, lives within the same
12 vicinity; and

13 WHEREAS, Family loyalty is a deeply ingrained characteristic
14 of the Dominican people; and

15 WHEREAS, The Dominican Republic is well-known as the homeland
16 of much of Major League Baseball, but it is also known for
17 fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, "Orange is The New Black"
18 actress Dascha Polanco, Maryland State Delegate Joseline Peña-
19 Melnyk, NASA aerospace engineer and inventor Dr. Victor Carreño,
20 Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Junot Díaz and countless other
21 accomplished individuals; and

22 WHEREAS, Dominicans are the fifth-largest population of
23 Hispanic origin living in the United States, and Reading,
24 Pennsylvania, is host to the 12th-largest urban Dominican
25 community in the United States; and

26 WHEREAS, The Dominican-American community contributes to our
27 nation's economic vitality and culture while maintaining a deep
28 connection with its Dominican roots; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
30 February 27, 2018, as "Dominican Republic Independence Day" in

1 Pennsylvania.