

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 666 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY CRUZ AND CLAY, MARCH 10, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 10, 2014

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating Spanish as the official language of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania and urging its use in all official acts of  
3 State and local government.

4 WHEREAS, In 1565, Spanish explorers established the first  
5 permanent settlement in what is now the United States, called  
6 Saint Augustine, in what is today known as the state of Florida;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Early Spanish explorations and settlements in North  
9 America, including the Spanish language of those early settlers,  
10 laid the landscape for the formation of what we know today as  
11 the United States of America; and

12 WHEREAS, Latinos are the largest minority ethnic group in the  
13 United States today, with more than 810,000 residing in  
14 Pennsylvania; and

15 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been further enriched by the  
16 waves of immigrants that it has both received and welcomed,  
17 particularly by those of Hispanic descent; and

18 WHEREAS, Innumerable individuals of Hispanic descent have  
19 made many great and noteworthy contributions to this

1 Commonwealth in all fields of interest, including medicine, the  
2 military, politics, aeronautics, academia, labor and industry,  
3 business, sports and the arts and entertainment; and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Hispanic population has served as a  
5 foundation to this Commonwealth's economy and continues to play  
6 an integral role in the cultural diversity of our State; and

7 WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the country's  
8 Hispanic population will reach 132.8 million by July 1, 2050,  
9 which will constitute 30% of the overall population of the  
10 United States; and

11 WHEREAS, In an effort to communicate with the citizens of  
12 this Commonwealth, Pennsylvania must be forward thinking and  
13 preemptive in addressing and embracing both an impending local  
14 and national demographic transformation; and

15 WHEREAS, Designating Spanish as the official language of the  
16 Commonwealth serves the overall interests of our government and  
17 its citizens by bridging unnecessary cultural and language gaps;  
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate Spanish  
20 as the official language of the Commonwealth, and urge its use  
21 in all official acts of State and local governments.