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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 223 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, SABATINA, ARGALL, GREENLEAF, SCAVELLO,  
EICHELBERGER, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, MCGARRIGLE, TEPLITZ,  
FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, YUDICHAK, COSTA, VULAKOVICH AND  
SCHWANK, OCTOBER 20, 2015

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 20, 2015

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2015 as "The Great Hunger  
2 Remembrance Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Irish population exploded in the first half of  
4 the 19th century, reaching about 8.5 million by 1845; and

5 WHEREAS, More than half the population of Ireland was  
6 dependent on the potato as a source of food because this crop  
7 produced more food per acre than wheat and could also be sold as  
8 a source of income; and

9 WHEREAS, The type of potato most favored among the Irish was  
10 the Arran Banner; and

11 WHEREAS, The Arran Banner was highly susceptible to the  
12 fungus *Phytophthora infestans*, commonly known as blight, which  
13 had spread from North America to Europe; and

14 WHEREAS, Blight destroyed the potato crop starting in the  
15 autumn of 1845 and continuing through 1850; and

16 WHEREAS, The British Government's decision to continue to  
17 export from Ireland food which could have fed starving people

1 several times over contributed to the Great Hunger; and

2 WHEREAS, The Great Hunger that plagued Ireland from 1845 to  
3 1850 caused Ireland to lose 2 million people due to starvation,  
4 disease and forced emigration; and

5 WHEREAS, Of those Irish who were forced to emigrate, nearly a  
6 third died aboard crowded and rickety vessels known as "coffin  
7 ships"; and

8 WHEREAS, The Irish who survived the journey to the United  
9 States helped foster the growth of our cities, Commonwealth and  
10 nation by digging canals, mining coal, building railroads,  
11 founding steel companies and making significant contributions in  
12 the fields of business, education, government, industry,  
13 medicine, religion, science and philanthropy; and

14 WHEREAS, Today the spirit of the Irish who were affected by  
15 the Great Hunger lives on in millions of Irish Americans;  
16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of October 2015  
18 as "The Great Hunger Remembrance Month" in Pennsylvania.