
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 451 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHWEYER, DONATUCCI, CHARLTON,
DIGIROLAMO, MURT, KINSEY, HENNESSEY, ROZZI, BULLOCK,
READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE, V. BROWN, QUIGLEY, KORTZ, WHEATLEY,
WATSON, BARRAR, O'BRIEN, FREEMAN, R. BROWN, FRANKEL, MILLARD,
D. COSTA, MARSICO, DRISCOLL, WARD, SAMUELSON, THOMAS, VITALI
AND BIZZARRO, AUGUST 24, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 24, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 15 through October 15, 2017, as "Hispanic
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth draws its strength from the
4 extraordinary diversity of its people and their cultural
5 customs; and

6 WHEREAS, Hispanics were the earliest European settlers to
7 arrive at our great nation, founding settlements in Florida in
8 the 1500s; and

9 WHEREAS, Mexicans established homesteads in the southwest in
10 the 1600s; and

11 WHEREAS, Spanish was the first European language spoken in
12 the New World; and

13 WHEREAS, Hispanic culture includes elements originating in
14 Spain, North America, Central America, South America and the
15 Caribbean; and

1 WHEREAS, Hispanics are the largest minority ethnic group in
2 the United States today; and

3 WHEREAS, Based on population estimates by the United States
4 Census Bureau for 2015, approximately 870,000 Hispanics reside
5 in this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans make valuable contributions to
7 this Commonwealth through business and industry, politics,
8 education, the sciences and the arts; and

9 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans share deep family values,
10 recognize their obligations to individuals who are less
11 fortunate and cherish freedom and what it means to be an
12 American; and

13 WHEREAS, Hispanic-owned businesses are currently growing at
14 three times the rate of the national average; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have
16 shown their devotion to our nation through military service; and

17 WHEREAS, Americans of Hispanic descent have fought in every
18 war since our founding and have taken their rightful place as
19 heroes in our nation's history; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, they are serving in our armed forces with
21 courage and honor, making our nation more secure and bringing
22 freedom to people around the world; and

23 WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" originated in
24 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson first proclaimed "National
25 Hispanic Heritage Week"; and

26 WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan established the monthlong
27 nationwide observance on September 15, 1988; and

28 WHEREAS, September 15 marks the anniversary of independence
29 for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador,
30 Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and

1 WHEREAS, September 16 and 18 are the celebrated independence
2 days for Mexico and Chile, respectively; and

3 WHEREAS, Columbus Day, or Dia de la Raza, also takes place
4 within the 30-day period on October 12; and

5 WHEREAS, To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the
6 Congress of the United States, by Public Law 100-402, has
7 authorized and requested the President of the United States to
8 annually issue a proclamation designating September 15 through
9 October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month"; and

10 WHEREAS, The month of September 15 through October 15, 2017,
11 is observed as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania to
12 encourage all residents to celebrate the value of our diversity
13 and the rich culture which has made our Commonwealth and our
14 nation so extraordinary; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September
16 15 through October 15, 2017, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in
17 Pennsylvania.