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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 153 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY GALLOWAY, MULLERY, D. COSTA, DRISCOLL, FREEMAN,  
JAMES, LONGIETTI, WATSON, MURT, RYAN, DIGIROLAMO, BRIGGS,  
MILLARD, DAVIS, READSHAW, MARSICO, SCHWEYER, O'BRIEN,  
KAVULICH, CALTAGIRONE, A. HARRIS, O'NEILL, GOODMAN, TOOHL,  
DEASY AND WARD, MARCH 16, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 16, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2017 as "Ancient Order of  
2 Hibernians Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is the oldest  
4 lay Catholic ethnic organization in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The AOH can trace its origins back to the 16th  
6 century, when secret societies formed in Ireland to protect the  
7 Irish people and the Roman Catholic Church against  
8 discrimination during the Protestant Reformation; and

9 WHEREAS, Oppressive conditions and periodic crop failures  
10 prompted many Irish to emigrate in the late 18th and early 19th  
11 centuries; and

12 WHEREAS, Many Irish settled in America and were faced with  
13 ethnic and religious discrimination that prompted the desire for  
14 a secretive society such as those which had existed in Ireland;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 1836, a group of miners from Schuylkill County

1 known as the Hibernian Benevolent Society met with Irish  
2 Catholics in New York City, which led to the formation of the  
3 first division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; and

4 WHEREAS, As the number of Irish in America grew due to  
5 emigration during the Irish famine of the 1840s, the AOH grew as  
6 well, with a mission to assist Irish immigrants in finding jobs  
7 and social services and to protect Catholic Church property; and

8 WHEREAS, The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians originated in  
9 1894 when the ladies' organization Daughters of Erin was  
10 officially recognized at an AOH national convention in Omaha,  
11 Nebraska; and

12 WHEREAS, Today, the AOH is the most broadly based Irish-  
13 American organization, with more than 80,000 members in America,  
14 Canada and Ireland, including more than 7,500 members in  
15 Pennsylvania; and

16 WHEREAS, The AOH welcomes the newly arrived Irish to America  
17 and seeks to provide a bridge with Ireland for those who are  
18 generations removed from their ancestral homeland by promoting  
19 Irish heritage and culture and the study of the Gaelic language;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Every year, the AOH donates millions of dollars to  
22 charitable causes and awards thousands of dollars in  
23 scholarships to affiliated youths; and

24 WHEREAS, The AOH recognizes March 17 as one of its legal  
25 holidays to honor the teachings and ideals of Saint Patrick;  
26 therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
28 month of March 2017 as "Ancient Order of Hibernians Month" in  
29 Pennsylvania.