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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2562 Session of  
2010

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INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, PARKER, READSHAW, MILLARD, GOODMAN,  
YOUNGBLOOD, SIPTROTH, PAYTON, KORTZ, HENNESSEY, EVERETT,  
GRUCELA, MANN, COHEN, MAHONEY, KOTIK, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI,  
VULAKOVICH, P. COSTA, PASHINSKI, PHILLIPS, PRESTON, HESS,  
MURT, MELIO, DALEY, HARPER, MATZIE, KULA AND CONKLIN,  
JUNE 8, 2010

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 8, 2010

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AN ACT

1 Designating March 24 as "Dorothy Height Day."

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Dorothy  
6 Height Celebration Act.

7 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

8 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

9 (1) Dorothy Height was born on March 24, 1912; grew up  
10 in Rankin, Allegheny County; and passed away on April 20,  
11 2010, at age 98.

12 (2) She graduated from New York University with a  
13 bachelor's degree and master's degree in educational  
14 psychology.

15 (3) Ms. Height was a leading civil rights pioneer whose

1 work spanned nearly 80 years.

2 (4) Ms. Height's civil rights work began in 1933, when  
3 she became a leader of the United Christian Youth Movement of  
4 North America and fought to stop lynchings and worked to  
5 desegregate the armed forces.

6 (5) In 1938, Ms. Height was one of ten young people  
7 selected to help Eleanor Roosevelt plan a World Youth  
8 Conference; and she fought for better working conditions for  
9 black domestic workers.

10 (6) During her many years of leadership with the Young  
11 Women's Christian Association, she worked to integrate Young  
12 Women's Christian Associations around the country. Today,  
13 full integration is so much the norm that it is difficult to  
14 remember the time when it was not, thanks to her efforts.

15 (7) She served as the tenth national President of Delta  
16 Sigma Theta, a sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominantly  
17 black, college-educated women, from 1946 to 1957.

18 (8) Ms. Height led the National Council of Negro Women  
19 from 1957 to 1988, when she became the group's chair and  
20 president emeritae.

21 (9) Ms. Height was one of the few women, and sometimes  
22 the only woman, to participate at the highest levels of the  
23 civil rights movement and was on the platform when Doctor  
24 King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 March  
25 on Washington.

26 (10) An advisor to Presidents Roosevelt, Eisenhower and  
27 Johnson, Ms. Height is the recipient of the Presidential  
28 Citizens Medal, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom From  
29 Want Award and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

30 (11) After a brief illness and hospitalization, Ms.

1 Height died on April 20, 2010, leaving an outstanding legacy  
2 of accomplishments for women, for minorities and for all  
3 Americans generally.

4 (12) It is fitting that the Commonwealth honor the life  
5 of Ms. Height by recognizing her lifetime achievements and  
6 her dedicated service to the United States of America, this  
7 Commonwealth and her fellow citizens.

8 Section 3. Designation.

9 In honor of the life of Dorothy Height and in recognition of  
10 her lifetime achievements, March 24 is designated as "Dorothy  
11 Height Day."

12 Section 10. Effective date.

13 This act shall take effect in 60 days.