
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 279 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KITCHEN, COSTA, SABATINA, GREENLEAF, SCAVELLO,
DINNIMAN, TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, EICHELBERGER, ARGALL,
VULAKOVICH, AUMENT, SCHWANK, WOZNIAK, FONTANA, HAYWOOD,
BARTOLOTTA, WILLIAMS, YUDICHAK, VANCE, RAFFERTY, HUTCHINSON,
FARNESE, BLAKE, BOSCOLA, LEACH, HUGHES, WILEY AND
TARTAGLIONE, FEBRUARY 8, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 8, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of February 2016 as "Black History Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, It is the duty of a society to recognize those
4 individuals within its borders who have contributed greatly to
5 the quality of life therein; and

6 WHEREAS, The contributions of African-American residents as
7 scientists, inventors, farmers, educators, homemakers, explorers
8 and countless other professions have greatly benefited this
9 Commonwealth and our nation; and

10 WHEREAS, Multiethnicity and multiculturalism may be
11 encouraged with an increased awareness of the important role
12 that African Americans have played throughout the history of
13 this Commonwealth and our nation; and

14 WHEREAS, Carter Goodwin Woodson, an African-American
15 historian, recognized these contributions and accomplishments
16 and on February 7, 1926, created a cultural landmark known as

1 "Negro History Week"; and

2 WHEREAS, "Negro History Week" was changed to "Black History
3 Week" during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and was
4 subsequently expanded to "Black History Month"; and

5 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" was officially recognized in
6 the United States in 1976 as part of the bicentennial
7 celebration and has continued to be a month-long celebration
8 each year since 1976; and

9 WHEREAS, Regarding "Black History Month," President Gerald
10 Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-
11 often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area
12 of endeavor throughout our history"; and

13 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" is an opportunity for all
14 Americans to commemorate the struggles and victories of African
15 Americans in our history and their invaluable contributions to
16 society and to the defense of our nation in war and peace;
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of February
19 2016 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania in recognition of
20 the contributions of the African-American community to this
21 Commonwealth and our nation and encourage all residents of this
22 Commonwealth to seek increased awareness and understanding of
23 these contributions through historical study.