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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 482 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY HARPER, MURT, FREEMAN, READSHAW, D. COSTA,  
HENNESSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, CHARLTON, BIZZARRO,  
V. BROWN, BOBACK, PASHINSKI, STAATS, SAYLOR, ROZZI, PICKETT,  
JAMES, SCHLEGEL CULVER, LONGIETTI, RAPP, WATSON, R. BROWN,  
MACKENZIE, DUSH, SONNEY, O'NEILL, KINSEY, ROEBUCK, NEILSON,  
MILLARD, MENTZER, GROVE, DIGIROLAMO, MARSICO, B. MILLER,  
MARSHALL, SOLOMON, WARD, EVERETT, HILL-EVANS, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
WHEELAND, WARREN AND GILLEN, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2017 as "Civic Education  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is where the constitutional  
4 government for the United States of America began 241 years ago;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In order to ensure that "the government of the  
7 people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish" as so  
8 eloquently stated by President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, it  
9 is necessary to ensure that each succeeding generation of  
10 Americans understands the principles of American self-governance  
11 and the ideals and principles on which our representative  
12 democracy is based and from which its institutions derive their  
13 legitimacy and power; and

14 WHEREAS, National testing shows an unfortunate ignorance

1 among eighth grade students about civics, geography and American  
2 history, while at the same time national polling shows that  
3 Americans strongly support the role of public schools in  
4 teaching young people how to become responsible citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth currently requires civic education  
6 in the form of social studies from kindergarten through grade  
7 12; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department of Education is authorized to test  
9 students for civic knowledge on the Keystone Exams once the  
10 questions have been developed, making the importance of civic  
11 education known in this Commonwealth and indicating the  
12 seriousness with which the Department of Education views the  
13 role of public schools in educating citizens on their rights and  
14 responsibilities; and

15 WHEREAS, American adults could also benefit from civic  
16 education to encourage greater civic engagement and involvement  
17 in our electoral and political process; and

18 WHEREAS, Civic education and participation in extracurricular  
19 activities are indicators for future civic engagement and  
20 involvement in our American democracy; and

21 WHEREAS, With high-quality civic education, students learn to  
22 listen to differing points of view, take greater responsibility  
23 for their own role in the government of "We the People" and work  
24 toward improving their own communities; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
26 month of September 2017 as "Civic Education Awareness Month" in  
27 Pennsylvania and urge all residents of this Commonwealth to  
28 celebrate efforts to educate and inform American citizens about  
29 their rights and responsibilities and the importance of civic  
30 engagement.