A RESOLUTION

Encouraging food donations and recognizing the importance of liability protections under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and the Donated Food Limited Liability Act during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, Many residents of Pennsylvania are experiencing financial hardships, as well as burdensome worries, relative to the potential effects that the COVID-19 pandemic could have on the health and safety of their friends and family; and

WHEREAS, The possibility of contracting COVID-19 is just one of the strains currently placed on many residents located across our Commonwealth and nation; and

WHEREAS, In addition to experiencing stress and worry relative to the potential health implications related to this virus, many residents are also facing growing concerns with regard to their personal finances; and

WHEREAS, For many individuals who are now out of work, the ability to purchase simple necessities may currently be beyond...
their reach; and

WHEREAS, For some individuals and families, the likelihood of facing food insecurity has grown significantly due to the lack of a steady and reliable income; and

WHEREAS, It is now more important than ever that individuals who are able to weather the current economic storm lend a helping hand to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Given the current circumstances under which many individuals and families are now living due to social distancing and the widespread closure of businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing food donations to nonprofit organizations is extremely important; and

WHEREAS, Many nonprofit organizations located throughout local communities of this Commonwealth regularly collect and distribute food donations and other essential items to individuals and families in need; and

WHEREAS, These nonprofit organizations not only provide necessary food items and goods through charitable acts, but they also ease the financial and mental strains of those experiencing hardships; and

WHEREAS, While many nonprofit organizations have the capability of providing assistance and goods to local communities scattered across Pennsylvania, they too rely on the spirit of giving from individuals who are willing and able to donate to their cause; and

WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, before the COVID-19 pandemic began impacting the Commonwealth, more than 1.5 million residents of this Commonwealth experienced chronic hunger each day; and

WHEREAS, Since the arrival of COVID-19, Feeding Pennsylvania
member food banks have reported a significant increase in the
demand for food assistance throughout their respective
communities; and

WHEREAS, When acknowledging the good and charitable efforts
of nonprofit organizations, it is important to also recognize
the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (Public Law
104-210, 110 Stat. 3011) and the act of July 10, 1981 (P.L.234,
No.76), known as the Donated Food Limited Liability Act; and

WHEREAS, These laws provide protection to individuals who
donate food in good faith from civil or criminal liability
related to their food donations; and

WHEREAS, Because of these legislative measures, individuals
who are striving to do the right thing by donating food to those
who are less fortunate are guaranteed a level of protection from
liability if something should be wrong with a donated food item;
and

WHEREAS, These laws also provide individuals with a feeling
of comfort and safety when donating food items to nonprofit
organizations that are better equipped to collect, process and
distribute the items to members of their community; therefore be
it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage food
donations and recognize the importance of liability protections
under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and the
Donated Food Limited Liability Act during the COVID-19 pandemic.