

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 75

Session of  
1989

INTRODUCED BY ITKIN, HAGARTY, JOSEPHS, COHEN, FREEMAN, PIEVSKY,  
FOX, DeWEESE, BOYES, MARKOSEK, BROUJOS, COLAIZZO, COWELL,  
J. L. WRIGHT, TIGUE, YANDRISEVITS, WOGAN, MORRIS, ROBINSON,  
NAHILL, STABACK, MRKONIC, BUNT, MAINE, KOSINSKI, BATTISTO,  
RYBAK, MICHLOVIC, JOHNSON, OLASZ, McNALLY, VEON, CLYMER,  
PISTELLA, BLAUM, ALLEN, PRESSMANN, MELIO, TRELLO, RICHARDSON,  
DeLUCA AND E. Z. TAYLOR, APRIL 11, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 11, 1989

## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the International Committee of the Red Cross and  
2 Red Crescent Movement and the League of the Red Cross and Red  
3 Crescent Societies to fully recognize the Magen David Adom  
4 Society.

5 WHEREAS, It has come to the attention of this legislative  
6 body that since 1949 the International Committee of the Red  
7 Cross has repeatedly refused to formally recognize the Magen  
8 David Adom Society, the Israeli equivalent of other  
9 international Red Cross societies; and

10 WHEREAS, The International Committee of the Red Cross  
11 mandates the fulfillment of ten formal requirements for  
12 recognition under the terms of the XVII International Red Cross  
13 Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1948; and

14 WHEREAS, Of those ten conditions, the Israeli Magen David  
15 Adom Society has met nine, the exception being the requirement  
16 that the Society display one of the three symbols currently in

1 use as Red Cross emblems; and

2 WHEREAS, The symbols currently in use (red cross, red  
3 crescent, and a red lion and sun) reflect the differences in  
4 religious and cultural values of the host countries where the  
5 Red Cross Societies are found; and

6 WHEREAS, The Israeli request for an emblem specific to its  
7 culture reflects a need no less than the need of the Moslem  
8 countries to use their accepted symbol; and

9 WHEREAS, Israel has requested that the Magen David Adom (Red  
10 Star of David) be accepted as the emblem of its national  
11 society, with the rationale being greater recognition and  
12 acceptance within Israel as a currently accepted protective  
13 symbol; and

14 WHEREAS, Acceptance of the Magen David Adom Society and its  
15 emblem by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the  
16 League of Red Cross Societies is vital to its function as an  
17 emergency relief agency during times of peace and conflict; and

18 WHEREAS, The American Red Cross has formally recognized the  
19 Magen David Adom Society as an exceptionally strong humanitarian  
20 organization fully qualified for formal recognition and equal  
21 status with other members of the League of Red Cross Societies;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The Magen David Adom Society petitioned for  
24 membership during the International Red Cross Quadrennial  
25 Conference held in Geneva in 1986; and

26 WHEREAS, Rather than accepting the application after 25  
27 years of delay, the Conference chose to reject it upon the basis  
28 of a claim of a need for a uniform symbol throughout the  
29 Society; and

30 WHEREAS, At the same time, the International Committee

1 changed its name to the International Committee of the Red Cross  
2 and Red Crescent Movement, thereby negating its claim of  
3 uniformity and bolstering the claim of Israel; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives memorialize the  
5 International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
6 Movement and the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent  
7 Societies to fully recognize the Magen David Adom Society; and  
8 be it further

9       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
10 Rabbi Rubin R. Dobin, International Chairman, Operation  
11 Recognition; the International Committee of the Red Cross and  
12 Red Crescent Societies, and the League of Red Cross and Red  
13 Crescent Societies.