

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 440 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, WATERS, BRENNAN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE,  
CUTLER, GEORGE, HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MILLARD,  
MIRABITO, PARKER, PAYTON, READSHAW, M. O'BRIEN, VULAKOVICH,  
MANN, O'NEILL AND GODSHALL, OCTOBER 5, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER  
5, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 8, 2011, as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The first contacts between Pennsylvania's indigenous  
4 peoples and Europeans occurred in the 1630s; and

5 WHEREAS, Colonial and Iroquois cultures intersected in early  
6 American history as our founding fathers interacted with  
7 indigenous leaders and acknowledged certain indigenous  
8 principles; and

9 WHEREAS, Indigenous government under the Great Law of Peace  
10 of the Iroquois Confederacy influenced our developing system of  
11 government, including the drafting and adoption of the  
12 Constitution of the United States and other foundational  
13 documents; and

14 WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples named many North American animals  
15 and plants and thousands of other place names throughout our  
16 Commonwealth; and

1       WHEREAS, More than 4,000 indigenous people currently live in  
2 the City of Philadelphia, an area known to early Lenape settlers  
3 as Coaquonnock, "the land of tall pines"; and

4       WHEREAS, Manayunk, Wissahickon and Passyunk and other place  
5 names in greater Philadelphia reflect indigenous origin; and

6       WHEREAS, "Indigenous Peoples Day" notes the influences of  
7 indigenous culture throughout our history; and

8       WHEREAS, "Indigenous Peoples Day" commemorates the  
9 contributions and resilience of indigenous communities and  
10 celebrates preservation of their unique cultural heritage and  
11 ethnic identities; therefore be it

12       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October  
13 8, 2011, as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Pennsylvania.