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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1026 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY HARPER, BOBACK, HENNESSEY, STAATS, NEILSON,  
BIZZARRO, READSHAW, PICKETT, DUSH, SONNEY, DIGIROLAMO, JAMES,  
RYAN, R. BROWN, ROEBUCK, MEHAFFIE, FREEMAN, VITALI, DRISCOLL,  
LONGIETTI, BARRAR, SAYLOR, DEASY, JOZWIAK, MARSICO, MURT,  
EVERETT AND CALTAGIRONE, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of September 2018 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 231 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  
15 among eighth grade students about civics, geography and American  
16 history, while at the same time national polling shows that

Americans strongly support the role of public schools in teaching young people how to become responsible citizens; and

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

WHEREAS, Act 35 of 2018, which adds a new section to the Public School Code of 1949 regarding assessment of civic knowledge, requires each school entity, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, to administer at least once to students in grades seven through twelve a locally developed assessment of United States history, government and civics that includes the nature, purpose, principles and structure of United States constitutional democracy, the principles, operations and documents of United States Government and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; and

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of September 2018 as "Civic Education Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all residents of this Commonwealth to celebrate efforts to educate

1 and inform American citizens about their rights and  
2 responsibilities and the importance of civic engagement.