
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 991 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, HILL-EVANS, A. DAVIS, SANCHEZ, HOWARD,
McCLINTON, VITALI, McNEILL, ROZZI, HANBIDGE, DELLOSO, DeLUCA,
KENYATTA, DRISCOLL, ISAACSON, MADDEN, BURNS, SCHLOSSBERG,
CIRESI, THOMAS AND KINSEY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2020 as "LGBT History Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "LGBT History Month" was established in 1994 by
4 Rodney Wilson to celebrate and teach gay and lesbian history;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, "LGBT History Month" has been endorsed by the Gay &
7 Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Gay, Lesbian and
8 Straight Education Network, the Human Rights Campaign, the
9 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Education
10 Association; and

11 WHEREAS, The purpose of "LGBT History Month" is to recognize
12 influential figures that have played a key role in progressing
13 LGBTQ rights and civil liberties; and

14 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a rich history of LGBTQ
15 accomplishments as well as influential figures; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1965, in the City of Philadelphia, one of the
17 first organized LGBTQ protests in United States history helped

1 to ignite the modern LGBTQ equality movement; and

2 WHEREAS, Among those influential figures is Cheryl Dunye, a
3 lesbian filmmaker, who grew up in Philadelphia and created films
4 whose themes explored the intersection of race, sexuality and
5 personal identity; and

6 WHEREAS, Billy Strayhorn, an openly gay black man, wrote
7 arrangements for musicals that challenged racist representations
8 of people of color and was frequently active in the advancement
9 of civil rights; and

10 WHEREAS, Governor Milton Shapp signed an executive order in
11 1975 that ended discrimination of employees in State government
12 based on sexual orientation, making Pennsylvania the first State
13 in the United States to authorize such a change; and

14 WHEREAS, Kiyoshi Kuromiya founded the Critical Path AIDS
15 Project, which was a collection of local organizations that
16 provided helpful resources and services to people with HIV; and

17 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
18 in conjunction with the LGBT Center of Central PA History
19 Project, is performing research and recording prominent
20 Pennsylvania LGBTQ historical sites, events and figures to
21 better teach individuals about Pennsylvania's LGBTQ history; and

22 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's LGBTQ history should be recognized
23 and celebrated; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
25 month of October 2020 as "LGBT History Month" in Pennsylvania.