

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 134 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, SAMUELSON, McCLINTON, SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE,
SCHLOSSBERG, A. DAVIS, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN, CONKLIN,
HOHENSTEIN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, McNEILL, MENTZER, DELLOSO,
SOLOMON, N. NELSON, MADDEN, BROOKS, CIRESI, MALAGARI, NEILSON
AND DRISCOLL, AUGUST 31, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, AUGUST 31, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 15 through October 15, 2021, as "Hispanic
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" is celebrated in
4 the United States to honor the history, culture and influence of
5 past generations who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and
6 Central and South America; and

7 WHEREAS, Hispanics were the earliest European settlers to
8 arrive at our great nation, founding settlements in Florida in
9 the 1500s; and

10 WHEREAS, Mexicans established homesteads in the southwest in
11 the 1600s; and

12 WHEREAS, Spanish was the first European language spoken in
13 the New World; and

14 WHEREAS, Latinos are the largest ethnic minority in the
15 United States today, and in Pennsylvania, more than 7% of the
16 population identify as Hispanic or Latino; and

1 WHEREAS, The Hispanic population plays a key role in our
2 country's socioeconomic, political and cultural development; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Hispanic population reached a
4 record 60.6 million individuals in 2019, an increase of 930,000
5 over the previous year; and

6 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans share deep family values,
7 recognize their obligations to individuals who are less
8 fortunate and cherish freedom and what it means to be an
9 American; and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have
11 shown their devotion to the nation through military service and
12 have fought in every war since the nation's founding; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 80,000 Hispanic Americans served with
14 distinction in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5% of individuals
15 who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in the
16 conflict despite Hispanic Americans comprising only 4.5% of the
17 population of the United States during that time; and

18 WHEREAS, As of 2019, there are more than 200,000 Hispanic
19 active duty service members serving in the armed forces of the
20 United States; and

21 WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" originated in
22 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson first proclaimed "National
23 Hispanic Heritage Week"; and

24 WHEREAS, On September 15, 1988, President Ronald Reagan
25 expanded the celebration into a month-long event linked to the
26 independence anniversaries of several Latin American nations,
27 including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico
28 and Chile; and

29 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" has become a vital
30 opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural traditions and

1 significant achievements of our Hispanic and Latino American
2 communities across the Commonwealth; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September
4 15 through October 15, 2021, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in
5 Pennsylvania; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
7 residents to celebrate the value of our diversity and the rich
8 culture which has made our Commonwealth and our nation so
9 extraordinary.