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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 305 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY DALEY, O'NEAL, GALLAGHER, R. MACKENZIE, VENKAT,  
HARKINS, PICKETT, FLICK, BRENNAN, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG,  
DONAHUE, PIELLI, HOHENSTEIN, KAZEEM, SANCHEZ, GUENST, JAMES,  
JOZWIAK, MALAGARI, HILL-EVANS, CONKLIN, HADDOCK, DELLOSO,  
HOWARD, HEFFLEY AND KHAN, JANUARY 31, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT, JANUARY 31, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 17, 2024, as "St. Patrick's Day" and  
2 designating October 7, 2024, as "The 100th anniversary of  
3 diplomatic relations between Ireland and the United States of  
4 America Day" in Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, A native of Roman Britain, Patrick was the son of a  
6 civil servant and deacon; and

7 WHEREAS, Tradition has it that at 16 years of age, Patrick  
8 was captured along with all the servants of his father's estate  
9 by Irish marauders, then sold to a Druid chief and taken to what  
10 is now known as County Antrim, in the Province of Ulster,  
11 Ireland; and

12 WHEREAS, During his six years of captivity, Patrick's  
13 occupation as a slave was the tending to flocks of swine and  
14 sheep; and

15 WHEREAS, While in captivity, Patrick learned the Irish  
16 language and customs; and

17 WHEREAS, During this period, Patrick experienced a religious

1 awakening with the Christian teachings of his family and pastors  
2 taking hold; and

3 WHEREAS, Driven by visions urging him to return to his native  
4 land, Patrick escaped his captors, undertaking a perilous  
5 journey in the process; and

6 WHEREAS, Upon his return home, Patrick dedicated his life to  
7 religion, studying in France where he was ordained as a priest  
8 and later consecrated as a bishop; and

9 WHEREAS, It was the example and fervor of Patrick's faith  
10 that inspired him to continue learning and to pass along his  
11 teachings to those in the British Isles and the rest of Europe;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Patrick's uplifting messages helped to sustain the  
14 people of Ireland through famine, oppression and exile; and

15 WHEREAS, It was his faith that earned Patrick not only  
16 sainthood, but the everlasting love and respect of the Irish  
17 people and many others throughout the world; and

18 WHEREAS, March 17, 461, is generally recognized as the date  
19 of St. Patrick's death; and

20 WHEREAS, Each March, during annual parades and celebrations  
21 honoring St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, Irish  
22 Americans join with people of other ethnic origins in honoring  
23 St. Patrick and demonstrating a mutual love for Ireland; and

24 WHEREAS, As we honor St. Patrick, whose life mirrored a deep  
25 and abiding example of the challenges of sainthood, we are  
26 mindful of the history of the Irish people and their struggle  
27 against oppression, religious intolerance and political, social  
28 and economic barriers; and

29 WHEREAS, Irish immigrants helped to form the cultural  
30 foundation of the United States; and

1       WHEREAS, Nearly 2 million Pennsylvanians, more than 15% of  
2 this Commonwealth's population, are of Irish descent; and

3       WHEREAS, On October 7, 1924, Ireland opened diplomatic  
4 relations with the United States when Timothy Smiddy presented  
5 his credentials to President Calvin Coolidge; and

6       WHEREAS, Serving as a diplomat, Mr. Smiddy was the Minister  
7 Plenipotentiary for what was then called the Irish Free State  
8 and what we know today as the Republic of Ireland; and

9       WHEREAS, There had been American consular officials in  
10 Ireland since the end of the 18th century, but true bilateral  
11 relations were not possible until the southern part of Ireland  
12 achieved independence from the United Kingdom supported by her  
13 "exiled children in America" in December 1921; and

14       WHEREAS, Diplomacy, economics, education, nationalism,  
15 tourism, culture, philanthropy and the circulatory movement of  
16 capital have been major points of contact between Ireland and  
17 the United States; and

18       WHEREAS, The Department of Community and Economic  
19 Development's Office of International Business Development has  
20 an in-market representative who works with companies in Ireland  
21 to establish relationships with businesses across this  
22 Commonwealth; and

23       WHEREAS, Irish companies of all sizes and industries have  
24 established ties with Pennsylvania's business community; and

25       WHEREAS, These companies include Burnside Autocyl, Eaton  
26 Corporation, Endi International, Johnson Controls International,  
27 Linde and Phorest; therefore be it

28       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March  
29 17, 2024, as "St. Patrick's Day" and designate October 7, 2024,  
30 as "The 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between

1 Ireland and the United States of America Day" in Pennsylvania.