

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 15 through October 15, 2013, as "Hispanic
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth draws its strength from the
4 extraordinary diversity of its people and their cultural
5 customs; and

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

9 WHEREAS, Mexicans established homesteads in the Southwest in
10 the 1600s; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Hispanic culture includes elements originating in
14 Spain, North America, Central America, South America and the
15 Caribbean; and

16 WHEREAS, Hispanics are the largest minority ethnic group in
17 the United States today, with more than 810,000 residing in

1 Pennsylvania; and

2 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans make valuable contributions to
3 this Commonwealth through business and industry, politics,
4 education, the sciences and the arts; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Hispanic-owned businesses are currently growing at
9 three times the rate of the national average; and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have
11 shown their devotion to our country in their military service;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Americans of Hispanic descent have fought in every
14 war since our founding and have taken their rightful place as
15 heroes in our nation's history; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, Americans of Hispanic descent are serving in
17 our armed forces with courage and honor, and their efforts help
18 make America more secure and bring freedom to people around the
19 world; and

20 WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month was started in 1968 by
21 President Johnson as Hispanic Heritage Week and was expanded to
22 one month by President Reagan on September 15, 1988; and

23 WHEREAS, The dates for Hispanic Heritage Month were chosen
24 because September 15th is the anniversary of independence for
25 five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador,
26 Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and

27 WHEREAS, September 16th and 18th are the celebrated
28 independence days for Mexico and Chile, respectively, and
29 finally, Columbus Day, or Dia de La Raza also takes place within
30 the 30-day period on October 12th; and

1 WHEREAS, To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the
2 Congress of the United States, by Public Law 100-402, has
3 authorized and requested the President to issue annually a
4 proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as
5 National Hispanic Heritage Month; and

6 WHEREAS, The month of September 15 through October 15, 2013,
7 has been proclaimed Hispanic Heritage Month in Pennsylvania and
8 is intended to encourage all citizens to celebrate the value of
9 our diversity and the rich culture which makes our Commonwealth
10 and our nation so extraordinary; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September
12 15 through October 15, 2013, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in
13 Pennsylvania.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20 _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

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See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Referred to Committee on	
Date _____	20 _____
Reported _____	20 _____
As Committed-Amended	
Recommendation	

By Hon. _____	