

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2016, as "William Shakespeare
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 2016, cultural and educational organizations from
4 around the world are joined in the celebration of great author
5 William Shakespeare's legacy, marking 400 years since his death
6 in 1616; and

7 WHEREAS, As a part of this year-long celebration, "First
8 Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare" is a nationally
9 touring exhibit that brings the "First Folio" to one site in
10 each of the 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico; and

11 WHEREAS, The "First Folio," published in 1623, is the first
12 collection of Shakespeare's plays ever assembled and includes 36
13 of Shakespeare's plays, 18 of which had never been published;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The "First Folio" was assembled by Shakespeare's
16 friends and colleagues and, without its publication,
17 Shakespeare's works might have been lost forever; and

1 WHEREAS, The "First Folio" is considered one of the most
2 influential books in history and only 235 copies exist today out
3 of an estimated 750 copies originally printed; and

4 WHEREAS, In November, this nationally touring exhibit arrives
5 in Pennsylvania and will be on display at Elizabethtown College,
6 courtesy of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.,
7 in honor of William Shakespeare; and

8 WHEREAS, The traveling exhibition, which also includes panels
9 and digital content, exclusively features copies of "First
10 Folio" from the Folger Library; and

11 WHEREAS, The Folger Library's collection of 82 copies of
12 "First Folio" is by far the largest in the world; and

13 WHEREAS, During November, the English-Speaking Union (ESU) of
14 the United States and the Folger Library have partnered with
15 Elizabethtown College and the two ESU branches in Pennsylvania
16 to hold a month-long series of events for children, teachers and
17 the public surrounding a display of the "First Folio"; and

18 WHEREAS, Among these events is a "Teaching Shakespeare
19 Workshop" which is dedicated to educating teachers on the
20 historical and cultural significance of Shakespeare's "First
21 Folio" and demonstrating its use in the classroom; and

22 WHEREAS, Teachers will be empowered to connect their students
23 directly with Shakespeare's language and provided with hands-on
24 practice techniques that work with students and classrooms of
25 all types; and

26 WHEREAS, According to the National Endowment for the Arts,
27 William Shakespeare, upon his death, was recognized as one of
28 the greatest English playwrights of his era and over the past
29 four centuries has come to be seen as the greatest playwright in
30 the English language; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 month of November 2016 as "William Shakespeare Month" in
3 Pennsylvania.

