

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20 _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

☐ Prior Session _____

Referred to Committee on

Date _____, 20 _____

Reported _____, 20 _____

As Committed-Amended

Recommendation

By Hon. _____

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 27, 2017, as "National HIV Testing Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The term HIV stands for human immunodeficiency
4 virus, a devastating epidemic that continues to spread in
5 communities throughout the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention, more than 1,200,000 people in the United States are
8 living with HIV; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2015, approximately 40,000 people were diagnosed
10 with HIV, which represents an approximate 19% decline in the
11 annual number of new diagnoses from 2005 to 2014; and

12 WHEREAS, Although much progress has been made in the way of
13 HIV prevention, HIV diagnoses have increased among several
14 groups; and

15 WHEREAS, National statistics highlight that gay and bisexual
16 men account for more than 82% of HIV diagnoses and that African-
17 American gay and bisexual men account for the largest number of

1 HIV diagnoses; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2015, youths between 13 and 24 years of age
3 accounted for 1 in 5 new HIV diagnoses; and

4 WHEREAS, In the midst of the heroin/opioid abuse epidemic
5 plaguing our Commonwealth and the United States, it is
6 critically important that the medical community and health care
7 advocates continue to emphasize that the risk of contracting or
8 transmitting HIV increases exponentially with injection drug
9 use; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Health, there are
11 approximately 35,000 people living with HIV in this
12 Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 1 in 8 people living with HIV
14 are unaware of their infection; and

15 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's
16 guidelines for HIV screening in health care settings recommend
17 at least one HIV screening for all individuals between 15 and 65
18 years of age, regardless of risk factors; and

19 WHEREAS, Thanks to extensive research and extraordinary
20 advances in medicine over the last two decades, individuals with
21 HIV are now living longer and have an overall better quality of
22 life; and

23 WHEREAS, With an early diagnosis and a proper treatment
24 regimen, individuals living with HIV can lead full and
25 productive lives while also taking a proactive role in reducing
26 the spread of the virus; and

27 WHEREAS, Individuals are more likely to act responsibly and
28 protect themselves and other individuals in the community when
29 they are aware of their HIV status; and

30 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to foster a

1 greater degree of awareness about the subjects of HIV, HIV
2 prevention, the importance of learning one's status by getting
3 tested and to remove the stigma and widespread misconceptions
4 associated with the virus; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize June
6 27, 2017, as "National HIV Testing Day" in Pennsylvania; and be
7 it further

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
9 Pennsylvanians between 15 and 65 years of age to speak with
10 their primary care provider or locate a free and confidential
11 HIV testing site to get tested for HIV and to educate themselves
12 about the prevention and treatment of HIV.

