

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2020 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Our Commonwealth was founded on the principles of  
4 freedom, fairness and tolerance; and

5 WHEREAS, Through military service, in debates and  
6 demonstrations, at the polls and in countless other acts of  
7 democracy, Pennsylvanians have consistently defended these  
8 principles; and

9 WHEREAS, Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer  
10 or questioning (LGBTQ+) Pennsylvanians and their allies have had  
11 significant roles in the economic, cultural, spiritual and  
12 political development of this Commonwealth while working  
13 tirelessly to maintain and promote culture and history; and

14 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has been the site of many pivotal  
15 moments in LGBTQ+ history; and

16 WHEREAS, The activism that has been vital for promoting  
17 tolerance and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community has flourished

1 in this Commonwealth; and

2 WHEREAS, On April 25, 1965, borrowing a strategy associated  
3 with the African-American civil rights movement, a group of  
4 gender variant persons of color organized a sit-in to protest  
5 discrimination toward LGBTQ+ individuals at Dewey's lunch  
6 counter in Philadelphia; and

7 WHEREAS, This event has been recognized as the first LGBTQ+  
8 sit-in in the nation and one of the first demonstrations  
9 launched with the goal of protecting the dignity of LGBTQ+  
10 individuals; and

11 WHEREAS, The Annual Reminder marches held in front of the  
12 Liberty Bell on Independence Day from 1965 through 1969 drew  
13 national attention to the LGBTQ+ community's struggle for  
14 liberty and equality; and

15 WHEREAS, Initiatives in keeping with the Dewey's lunch  
16 counter and Annual Reminder demonstrations have generated  
17 greater inclusion among LGBTQ+ Americans in their respective  
18 communities; and

19 WHEREAS, Commonwealth agencies and officers have  
20 traditionally been on the forefront of LGBTQ+ recognition,  
21 regardless of which political party has been in control; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1975, Governor Milton Shapp issued the first  
23 Statewide resolution in the nation recognizing LGBTQ+ equality;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, In 1976, Governor Shapp established the Pennsylvania  
26 Council for Sexual Minorities, the first governmental body in  
27 the nation to examine LGBTQ+ issues; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1979, Governor Richard Thornburgh became the  
29 first Republican governor in the nation to issue a Statewide  
30 resolution recognizing LGBTQ+ equality; and

1       WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians remain committed to advancing LGBTQ+  
2 inclusion and quality of life; and

3       WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to *Philadelphia Gay News*,  
4 the oldest continually published magazine devoted to LGBTQ+  
5 issues; and

6       WHEREAS, The John C. Anderson Apartments in Philadelphia, one  
7 of the nation's first affordable LGBTQ+ elder housing  
8 facilities, and the Persad Center in Pittsburgh, the second  
9 oldest licensed counseling center serving the LGBTQ+ community  
10 and people living with HIV, offer additional resources; and

11       WHEREAS, The month of June is recognized worldwide as "LGBTQ+  
12 Pride Month" to commemorate the Stonewall riots in New York  
13 City, considered to be a turning point in the fight for global  
14 LGBTQ+ equality; and

15       WHEREAS, "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" highlights the work, struggles,  
16 accomplishments and challenges of LGBTQ+ individuals in this  
17 Commonwealth and beyond; and

18       WHEREAS, As a celebration of diversity, "LGBTQ+ Pride Month"  
19 reflects our Commonwealth's unique history of welcoming and  
20 securing equal treatment for all individuals and adds greatly to  
21 the social inclusion and economic health and well-being of our  
22 communities; therefore be it

23       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
24 month of June 2020 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in Pennsylvania.