

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.