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Legislative Reference Bureau

INTRODUCED _____

By Rabb, Christopher M. **District**
NO. 200

By _____ **District**
NO. _____

By _____ **District**
NO. _____

By _____ **District**
NO. _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Prior Session _____

Referred to Committee on	
Date	_____
Reported	_____
As Committed-Amended	
Recomendation	_____
By Hon.	_____

AN ACT

1 Designating the second Monday in October each year as Indigenous
2 Peoples' Day in this Commonwealth.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Indigenous
7 Peoples' Day Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) Millions of indigenous people inhabited the land
11 that makes up this Commonwealth prior to European settlement.

12 (2) The Doctrine of Discovery enabled Christian
13 explorers to wrongfully seize lands inhabited by indigenous
14 people and subjected indigenous people to brutality.

15 (3) European exploration and settlement adversely
16 impacted indigenous populations, devastated natural resources
17 and initiated the slave trade.

1 (4) Indigenous people suffered discrimination and
2 oppression as a result of European exploration and
3 settlement.

4 (5) This Commonwealth exists on the tribal lands of the
5 Erie, Haudenosaunee, Lenape, Munsee, Shawnee and
6 Susquehannock.

7 (6) The Treaty of Shackamaxon between William Penn and
8 the Lenape sought to cultivate an alliance and friendship.

9 (7) The Treaty of Shackamaxon was broken within a
10 generation.

11 (8) From the early 19th through the mid-20th centuries,
12 indigenous children were taken from their homes and sent to
13 Indian Residential Schools, such as the Carlisle Indian
14 Industrial School, which perpetuated cultural genocide of
15 indigenous youth through forced "Americanization" that
16 included the abandonment of language, tradition, names and
17 identities.

18 (9) The Snyder Act of 1924, which gave indigenous
19 peoples born in the United States full citizenship, was an
20 important step in guaranteeing the right to vote for
21 indigenous people.

22 (10) It is vital to honor the sacrifice, culture,
23 tradition and contributions of the indigenous people of this
24 Commonwealth and of North America.

25 (11) We must build and strengthen connections with the
26 communities and tribes of indigenous people in this
27 Commonwealth.

28 Section 3. Designation.

29 The second Monday in October each year is designated as
30 Indigenous Peoples' Day in this Commonwealth.

1 Section 4. Construction.

2 Nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring an
3 employer to treat the second Monday in October as a legal or
4 official holiday or to provide paid leave to an employee on the
5 second Monday in October solely by virtue of the date being
6 designated under this act.

7 Section 5. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect immediately.