

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2623 Session of
1994

INTRODUCED BY KUKOVICH AND WOZNIAK, MARCH 21, 1994

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 21, 1994

AN ACT

1 Selecting and designating the square dance as the official
2 American folk dance of this Commonwealth; and selecting and
3 designating the polka as the official ethnic folk dance of
4 this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, Square dancing was truly the American dance
6 developing in this country as the country itself was progressing
7 and moving west; and

8 WHEREAS, Though the history of square dancing has gone
9 largely unrecorded, it began as it is today a fun folk dance
10 whose ancestry can be traced to four principal sources: the
11 calling and the timing came from the New England Quadrille, the
12 vigor and the fun came from the Kentucky Running Set, several of
13 the steps can be traced to Mexico and many figures can be traced
14 to European Folk Dances; and

15 WHEREAS, Modern square dancing has been a popular form of
16 entertainment in this Commonwealth for many years; and

17 WHEREAS, Due to the growing popularity of square dancing, a
18 State federation was formed to encourage and develop the art of

1 square dancing; and

2 WHEREAS, There are square dancing federations in every state
3 in the nation as well as the District of Columbia, Canada,
4 Mexico, Europe and Asia and for the past 37 years these dancing
5 enthusiasts have joined together during the National Square
6 Dance Convention; and

7 WHEREAS, Square dancing has become extremely popular with the
8 citizens of this Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, The polka dance, which originated in Bohemia and
10 swept across Europe and the Americas, became an extremely
11 popular ethnic folk dance throughout this Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, The polka has remained the most popular ethnic folk
13 dance of all ethnic dances that are performed in this
14 Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, The polka as an ethnic folk dance is likely to
16 continue as the most popular ethnic folk dance in this
17 Commonwealth for many years into the future.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. Square dancing is hereby selected, designated and
21 adopted as the official folk dance of this Commonwealth of
22 Pennsylvania.

23 Section 2. The polka is hereby selected, designated and
24 adopted as the official ethnic folk dance of this Commonwealth.

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.