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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 136 Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY KITCHEN, WASHINGTON, FERLO, BOSCOLA, C. WILLIAMS,  
TARTAGLIONE, STOUT, FONTANA, MELLOW, ERICKSON, M. WHITE,  
ARMSTRONG, LOGAN, O'PAKE, BAKER, RAFFERTY, D. WHITE, COSTA,  
HUGHES, A. WILLIAMS, PILEGGI, FOLMER, LAVALLE AND EARLL,  
JUNE 13, 2007

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 13, 2007

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A RESOLUTION

1 Observing June 16, 2007, as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Originating in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865,  
4 when slaves in that state learned that they had been freed,  
5 "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" is the oldest African-American  
6 holiday observance in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" commemorates the  
8 survival instinct of Africans who endured a transatlantic  
9 journey, known as the Middle Passage, on slave ships from their  
10 homeland to this country; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 11.5 million Africans survived the  
12 harsh voyage to slave markets in the New World during the late  
13 17th century, and the slave population in the American colonies  
14 grew quickly; and

15 WHEREAS, "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" further  
16 commemorates the impact of slavery, the abolition movement and

1 African-American emancipation in the United States and has  
2 become a traditional celebration of independence, human rights  
3 and African-American culture in many communities; therefore be  
4 it

5       RESOLVED, That the Senate urge Pennsylvanians to observe June  
6 16, 2007, as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in Pennsylvania.