
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 539 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, O'BRIEN AND KIRKLAND, OCTOBER 14, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 14, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating Spanish as the official language of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania and urging its use in all official acts of
3 State and local government.

4 WHEREAS, In 1565, Spanish explorers established the first
5 permanent settlement in what is now the United States, called
6 Saint Augustine, in what is today known as the state of Florida;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Early Spanish explorations and settlements in North
9 America, including the Spanish language of those early settlers,
10 laid the landscape for the formation of what we know today as
11 the United States of America; and

12 WHEREAS, Latinos are the largest minority ethnic group in the
13 United States, with more than 810,000 residing in Pennsylvania;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been further enriched by the
16 waves of immigrants that it has both received and welcomed,
17 particularly by those of Hispanic descent; and

18 WHEREAS, Innumerable individuals of Hispanic descent have
19 made many great and noteworthy contributions to this

1 Commonwealth in all fields of interest, including medicine, the
2 military, politics, aeronautics, academia, labor and industry,
3 business, sports and the arts and entertainment; and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Hispanic population has served as a
5 foundation to this Commonwealth's economy and continues to play
6 an integral role in the cultural diversity of our State; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau projects that the
8 country's Hispanic population will reach 132.8 million by July
9 1, 2050, which will constitute 30% of the overall population of
10 the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, In an effort to communicate with the residents of
12 this Commonwealth, Pennsylvania must be forward thinking and
13 preemptive in addressing and embracing both an impending local
14 and national demographic transformation; and

15 WHEREAS, Designating Spanish as the official language of the
16 Commonwealth serves the overall interests of our government and
17 its citizens by bridging unnecessary cultural and language gaps;
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate Spanish
20 as the official language of the Commonwealth and urge its use in
21 all official acts of State and local governments.