PRINTER'S NO. 3062

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 779 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY GALLOWAY, KOTIK, MURT, JAMES, WATSON, MILLARD, CALTAGIRONE, MULLERY, COHEN, FREEMAN, THOMAS, KIRKLAND, ROZZI, VEREB, DRISCOLL, D. COSTA, NEILSON, SCHLOSSBERG, HENNESSEY, DiGIROLAMO, DAVIS, O'BRIEN, ROSS, McNEILL, LONGIETTI, KAVULICH, KINSEY, O'NEILL, BARRAR, PETRI, GOODMAN, READSHAW, WHITE, GINGRICH, QUIGLEY, KIM, WARD, PASHINSKI, KORTZ, DAY, DEASY, TAYLOR, PHILLIPS-HILL, FARRY, DONATUCCI, MAJOR AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 4, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 4, 2016

A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of March 2016 as "Ancient Order of Hibernians Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is the oldest lay Catholic ethnic organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The AOH can trace its origins back to the 16th century, when secret societies formed in Ireland to protect the Irish people and the Roman Catholic Church against discrimination during the Protestant Reformation; and

WHEREAS, Oppressive conditions and periodic crop failures prompted many Irish to emigrate in the late 18th and early 19th centuries; and

WHEREAS, Many Irish settled in America and were faced with ethnic and religious discrimination that prompted the desire for a secretive society such as those which had existed in Ireland;

and

WHEREAS, In 1836, a group of miners from Schuylkill County known as the Hibernian Benevolent Society met with Irish Catholics in New York City, which led to the formation of the first division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; and

WHEREAS, As the number of Irish in America grew due to emigration during the Irish famine of the 1840s, the AOH grew as well, with a mission to assist Irish immigrants in finding jobs and social services and to protect Catholic Church property; and

WHEREAS, The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians originated in 1894 when the ladies' organization Daughters of Erin was officially recognized at an AOH national convention in Omaha, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Today, the AOH is the most broadly based Irish-American organization, with more than 80,000 members in America, Canada and Ireland, including more than 7,500 members in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The AOH welcomes the newly arrived Irish to America and seeks to provide a bridge with Ireland for those who are generations removed from their ancestral homeland by promoting Irish heritage and culture and the study of the Gaelic language; and

WHEREAS, Every year, the AOH donates millions of dollars to charitable causes and awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to affiliated youth; and

WHEREAS, The AOH recognizes March 17 as one of its legal holidays to honor the teachings and ideals of Saint Patrick; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of March 2016 as "Ancient Order of Hibernians Month" in

Pennsylvania.