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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 676 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, READSHAW, KULIK, D. COSTA, DEASY,  
DONATUCCI, CORBIN, TOOHIL, DEAN, NEILSON, PICKETT, RYAN,  
THOMAS, BOBACK, DIGIROLAMO, BIZZARRO, O'NEILL, KINSEY, HILL-  
EVANS, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG, DRISCOLL, HENNESSEY,  
LONGIETTI, BAKER, KIRKLAND, MENTZER, SAYLOR, WATSON,  
CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, MURT, WARD, SCHWEYER, B. MILLER AND  
OBERLANDER, JANUARY 31, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 31, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 11, 2018, as "Charter Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1681, King Charles II of England granted  
3 William Penn a charter for land in the New World to make up for  
4 a large debt that the king owed to Penn's father; and

5 WHEREAS, William Penn had initially decided to name the land  
6 "Sylvania," which in Latin means "woods," to which King Charles  
7 II added the prefix "Penn" in honor of William Penn's father,  
8 Admiral Sir William Penn; and

9 WHEREAS, Admiral Penn had served England as a rear admiral  
10 and vice admiral of Ireland, a vice admiral of England, a  
11 general in the First Anglo-Dutch War and great captain commander  
12 under the Duke of York; and

13 WHEREAS, William Penn wrote a Frame of Government of  
14 Pennsylvania that established a democratic system containing

1 full freedom of religion, fair trials featuring independent  
2 juries, assemblies consisting of elected representatives of the  
3 people and a separation of powers in the government, all ideas  
4 that later formed the crux of the Constitution of the United  
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, William Penn described Pennsylvania as his "holy  
7 experiment" and from it he hoped a nation based on justice would  
8 grow; and

9 WHEREAS, William Penn's charter exists as the formal  
10 beginning of the colony and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
11 and through it, William Penn established the first example of  
12 democracy in what would become the United States of America; and

13 WHEREAS, Our citizens benefit from learning more about the  
14 overall history of this Commonwealth from its founding and how  
15 the principles of governance within the Commonwealth date back  
16 to the beliefs of William Penn; and

17 WHEREAS, The history of Pennsylvania exists as a kaleidoscope  
18 of stories and people, with each area of this Commonwealth  
19 having multiple stories of history involving key characters and  
20 events that create and establish Pennsylvania's heritage; and

21 WHEREAS, "Charter Day" is observed on March 14 of each year  
22 and is recognized by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
23 Commission on the first Sunday closest to that date, which in  
24 2018 is March 11; and

25 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
26 encourages visits to all of its sites in celebration of "Charter  
27 Day"; and

28 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,  
29 the Pennsylvania State Archives and the State Historical Records  
30 Advisory Board each works to inform Commonwealth residents about

1 our Commonwealth's heritage through special activities,  
2 including sponsoring an annual "Charter Day" event in the State  
3 Museum of Pennsylvania; and

4 WHEREAS, This free event includes a presentation of the 1681  
5 charter as well as information about Penn's Great Law of 1682,  
6 the 1698 William Penn family bible, a William Penn reenactor,  
7 stories of Pennsylvania history and other programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has 23 other State historic sites and  
9 museums and numerous other historical organizations that  
10 continue to operate, largely thanks to the assistance of  
11 volunteers and other groups that have donated their money, time  
12 and other resources so that residents can remain well informed  
13 about the fabric of this Commonwealth's history; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March  
15 11, 2018, as "Charter Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the residents, schools, other educational  
17 institutions and patriotic, religious, historical and veterans'  
18 groups be urged to participate with any and all "Charter Day"  
19 activities sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
20 Commission, the Pennsylvania State Archives, the State  
21 Historical Records Advisory Board, the 23 other State historic  
22 sites and museums or those offered by any of the many other  
23 historical organizations within this Commonwealth; and be it  
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the volunteers and other residents who keep  
26 history alive through their support and work for the  
27 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania  
28 State Archives, the State Historical Records Advisory Board, the  
29 23 other State historic sites and museums or through the  
30 numerous other historical organizations within this Commonwealth

1 be honored for their efforts.