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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 860 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY DALEY, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, RABB, PASHINSKI,  
MULLERY, MILLARD, HENNESSEY, CHARLTON, NEILSON, BIZZARRO,  
SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, DAVIS, BARBIN, CALTAGIRONE, HILL-  
EVANS, DRISCOLL, WATSON, GILLEN AND CONKLIN, APRIL 23, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 23, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 22, 2018, as "Public Lands Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The public lands of this Commonwealth protect and  
4 preserve Pennsylvania's natural resources and cultural heritage  
5 and are a shared resource for all Pennsylvanians to enjoy; and

6 WHEREAS, The parks, forests, waterways, wildlife refuges,  
7 game lands and other public lands in this Commonwealth are the  
8 gateway to an outdoor recreation industry that generates more  
9 than \$25 billion annually for this Commonwealth's economy; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
11 oversees and maintains the Commonwealth's extensive system of  
12 State parks and State forests; and

13 WHEREAS, There are 121 State parks covering approximately  
14 300,000 acres in this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, Our State parks feature a wide variety of scenery  
16 and terrain, from Fort Washington State Park in suburban

1 Philadelphia, to Presque Isle State Park on Lake Erie, to the  
2 majestic wilderness of Ricketts Glen State Park and Worlds End  
3 State Park in central Pennsylvania; and

4 WHEREAS, Our State parks offer a myriad of opportunities for  
5 outdoor recreation, including hiking, camping, hunting, fishing,  
6 ATV riding, kayaking, boating, swimming, geocaching and skiing;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's State forest system comprises  
9 2.2 million acres of forestland in 48 of our 67 counties; and

10 WHEREAS, Our State forest system provides low-density  
11 recreational opportunities, aesthetic beauty, plant and animal  
12 habitats and environmentally sound natural resource management;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Game Commission oversees nearly 1.5  
15 million acres in this Commonwealth to manage wildlife habitats  
16 and provide opportunities for hunting and fishing; and

17 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has one national forest, the  
18 Allegheny National Forest, which is managed by the United States  
19 Forest Service and covers 517,000 acres in northwestern  
20 Pennsylvania; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States National Park Service operates 19  
22 national parks in this Commonwealth, including the Delaware  
23 Water Gap National Recreation Area and a portion of the  
24 Appalachian National Scenic Trail; and

25 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's historical and cultural heritage is  
26 also on display on public lands throughout this Commonwealth,  
27 including the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville,  
28 Valley Forge National Historical Park and Independence National  
29 Historical Park in Philadelphia; and

30 WHEREAS, Approximately 6,000 local parks throughout this

1 Commonwealth offer convenient opportunities for outdoor  
2 recreation and relaxation; and

3 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that exposure to nature has both  
4 short-term and long-term mental and physical health benefits;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, "National Public Lands Day" was established in 1994  
7 and is celebrated on the fourth Saturday in September with free  
8 admission to national parks; and

9 WHEREAS, On "National Public Lands Day," the National  
10 Environmental Education Foundation coordinates the nation's  
11 largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands in order to  
12 connect people to the public land in their communities and  
13 promote shared environmental stewardship; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
15 September 22, 2018, as "Public Lands Day" in Pennsylvania.