
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 476 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, FREEMAN, SCHWEYER, SCHLOSSBERG,
BURNS, DERMODY, McCLINTON, BIZZARRO, BARRAR, ULLMAN, STURLA,
HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, DiGIROLAMO, ROEBUCK, MILLARD, READSHAW,
HOHENSTEIN, DEASY, A. DAVIS, FRANKEL, CALTAGIRONE, MALAGARI,
BROWN, SAINATO, KORTZ, CIRESI, HEFFLEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER AND
DeLUCA, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 15 through October 15, 2019, as "Hispanic
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth draws its strength from the
4 extraordinary diversity of its people and their cultural
5 customs; and

6 WHEREAS, Hispanics were the earliest European settlers to
7 arrive at our great nation, founding settlements in Florida in
8 the 1500s; and

9 WHEREAS, Mexicans established homesteads in the southwest in
10 the 1600s; and

11 WHEREAS, Spanish was the first European language spoken in
12 the New World; and

13 WHEREAS, Hispanic culture includes elements originating in
14 Spain, North America, Central America, South America and the
15 Caribbean; and

16 WHEREAS, Currently, Hispanics are the largest minority ethnic

1 group in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, Based on population estimates by the United States
3 Census Bureau for 2018, approximately 975,000 Hispanics reside
4 in this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans make valuable contributions to
6 this Commonwealth through business and industry, politics,
7 education, science and the arts; and

8 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans share deep family values,
9 recognize their obligations to individuals who are less
10 fortunate and cherish freedom and what it means to be an
11 American; and

12 WHEREAS, Hispanic-owned businesses are currently growing at
13 three times the rate of the national average; and

14 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have
15 shown their devotion to our nation through military service; and

16 WHEREAS, Americans of Hispanic descent have fought in every
17 war since our founding and have taken their rightful place as
18 heroes in our nation's history; and

19 WHEREAS, Today, Hispanic Americans are serving in our armed
20 forces with courage and honor, making our nation more secure and
21 bringing freedom to people around the world; and

22 WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" originated in
23 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson first proclaimed "National
24 Hispanic Heritage Week"; and

25 WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan established the monthlong
26 nationwide observance on September 15, 1988; and

27 WHEREAS, September 15 marks the anniversary of independence
28 for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador,
29 Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; and

30 WHEREAS, September 16 and 18 are the celebrated independence

1 days for Mexico and Chile, respectively; and

2 WHEREAS, Columbus Day, or Dia de la Raza, is celebrated
3 October 14 during the monthlong observance; and

4 WHEREAS, To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the
5 Congress of the United States, by Public Law 100-402, has
6 authorized and requested the President of the United States to
7 annually issue a proclamation designating September 15 through
8 October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month"; and

9 WHEREAS, The month of September 15 through October 15 is
10 observed as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania to
11 encourage all residents to celebrate the value of our diversity
12 and the rich culture which has made our Commonwealth and our
13 nation so extraordinary; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September
15 15 through October 15, 2019, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in
16 Pennsylvania.