
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 596 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, FRANKEL, STURLA, ZABEL, BIZZARRO,
SHUSTERMAN, KINSEY, McNEILL, SANCHEZ, DONATUCCI, KENYATTA,
CRUZ, SCHLOSSBERG, ULLMAN, T. DAVIS, JOHNSON-HARRELL,
ISAACSON, HILL-EVANS, RAVENSTAHL, MURT, THOMAS, WEBSTER,
YOUNGBLOOD, CIRESI AND HOWARD, OCTOBER 29, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 29, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2019 as "LGBT History Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "LGBT History Month" was established in 1994 by
4 Rodney Wilson to celebrate and teach gay and lesbian history;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, "LGBT History Month" has been endorsed by the Gay &
7 Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Gay, Lesbian and
8 Straight Education Network, the Human Rights Campaign, the
9 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Education
10 Association; and

11 WHEREAS, The purpose of "LGBT History Month" is to recognize
12 influential figures that have played a key role in progressing
13 LGBTQ rights and civil liberties; and

14 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a rich history of LGBTQ
15 accomplishments as well as influential figures; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1965, in the City of Philadelphia, one of the

1 first organized LGBTQ protests in United States history helped
2 to ignite the modern LGBTQ equality movement; and

3 WHEREAS, Among those influential figures is Cheryl Dunye, a
4 lesbian filmmaker, who grew up in Philadelphia and created films
5 whose themes explored the intersection of race, sexuality and
6 personal identity; and

7 WHEREAS, Billy Strayhorn, an openly gay black man, wrote
8 arrangements for musicals that challenged racist representations
9 of people of color and was frequently active in the advancement
10 of civil rights; and

11 WHEREAS, Governor Milton Shapp signed an executive order in
12 1975 that ended discrimination of employees in State government
13 based on sexual orientation, making Pennsylvania the first State
14 in the United States to authorize such a change; and

15 WHEREAS, Kiyoshi Kuromiya founded the Critical Path AIDS
16 Project, which was a collection of local organizations that
17 provided helpful resources and services to people with HIV; and

18 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
19 in conjunction with the LGBT Center of Central PA History
20 Project, is performing research and recording prominent
21 Pennsylvania LGBTQ historical sites, events and figures to
22 better teach individuals about Pennsylvania's LGBTQ history; and

23 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's LGBTQ history should be recognized
24 and celebrated; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
26 month of October 2019 as "LGBT History Month" in Pennsylvania.