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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 665 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, READSHAW, HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO, KORTZ,  
DONATUCCI, BURNS, KINSEY, PICKETT, LONGIETTI, SCHLOSSBERG,  
SHUSTERMAN, FREEMAN, McNEILL, BROWN, MILLARD, HEFFLEY,  
BERNSTINE, DEASY, MURT, YOUNGBLOOD, McCLINTON AND GALLOWAY,  
JANUARY 15, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
JANUARY 15, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of January 2020 as "National Radon Action  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Radon gas is created from the decay of uranium in  
4 soil, rock and water and gets into the air we breathe; and

5 WHEREAS, While radon is a naturally occurring and generally  
6 harmless gas in the atmosphere, it is problematic when it enters  
7 buildings through cracks in the foundation where it can become  
8 trapped and accumulate; and

9 WHEREAS, A proven human carcinogen, radon gas has been found  
10 to be the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers  
11 in the United States and claims the lives of approximately  
12 21,000 Americans each year; and

13 WHEREAS, For the past several years, the United States  
14 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has declared January as  
15 "National Radon Action Month" in an effort to encourage  
16 individuals to learn more about their radon gas exposure levels;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, While accumulation of radon gas is a problem in  
3 different parts of the country, the Department of Environmental  
4 Protection (DEP) asserts that this Commonwealth has one of the  
5 most serious radon gas problems in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the DEP's website, approximately 40% of  
7 homes in this Commonwealth have radon gas levels above the EPA's  
8 action guideline of 4 picocuries per liter; and

9 WHEREAS, While Pennsylvanians may access a compilation of  
10 indoor radon test results by zip code on the DEP's website in  
11 order to ascertain samples of radon gas levels throughout this  
12 Commonwealth, the only way to determine the actual radon level  
13 in a specific structure is to have the building periodically  
14 tested, since it has been scientifically proven that radon gas  
15 levels can vary from home to home in the same neighborhood; and

16 WHEREAS, The EPA and the DEP recommend that all individuals  
17 take the time to periodically test their homes for radon gas  
18 levels; and

19 WHEREAS, An easy radon home testing device can be purchased  
20 for approximately \$30 from a hardware or home improvement store  
21 and should be placed in the basement, or, if the home does not  
22 have a basement, the testing device should be placed in an  
23 undisturbed area on the ground floor; and

24 WHEREAS, Individuals may also choose a State-certified tester  
25 listed on the DEP's website to conduct the radon gas test in a  
26 home; and

27 WHEREAS, In many cases, if an elevated radon gas level is  
28 detected in a home, there are inexpensive steps to mitigate the  
29 problem; and

30 WHEREAS, If the solution is more extensive, the DEP also

1 maintains a list of State-certified mitigators available on its  
2 website; and

3 WHEREAS, During "National Radon Action Month" and throughout  
4 the year it is important that Pennsylvanians know their exposure  
5 levels to radon gas; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
7 month of January 2020 as "National Radon Action Month" in  
8 Pennsylvania.