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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 697 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, BURNS, READSHAW, KORTZ, LONGIETTI,  
SCHLOSSBERG, KIM, RYAN, DONATUCCI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MURT,  
FREEMAN, HILL-EVANS, GAYDOS, MARSHALL, BERNSTINE, MILLARD,  
ULLMAN, PASHINSKI, KINSEY, ROEBUCK, DeLUCA, YOUNGBLOOD,  
NEILSON AND CONKLIN, JANUARY 30, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 30, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of March 15 through 21, 2020, as "Sunshine  
2 Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The basic principles of freedom of speech and  
4 freedom of the press guaranteed in the Constitution of the  
5 United States are fundamental to our national heritage; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 2005, the American Society of News Editors and  
7 the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association and its members, which  
8 include all of this Commonwealth's 74 daily newspapers, 180  
9 nondaily and collegiate news publications and 9 online-only news  
10 organizations annually observe "Sunshine Week" in mid-March,  
11 coinciding with James Madison's birthday on March 16, as a  
12 nonpartisan, nonprofit initiative to illustrate the importance  
13 of open government and public access to government records and  
14 meetings; and

15 WHEREAS, "Sunshine Week" participation by nonjournalism  
16 groups is growing through national and local forums planned by

1 civic groups, libraries, open government and freedom of  
2 information groups and student media; and

3 WHEREAS, "Sunshine Week" was established to spark a  
4 discussion about the importance of open government and public  
5 access to government documents and meetings; and

6 WHEREAS, These issues are important in this Commonwealth,  
7 where public access issues regularly emerge; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
9 week of March 15 through 21, 2020, as "Sunshine Week" in  
10 Pennsylvania; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That all residents of this Commonwealth be urged to  
12 join in this observance of the basic principles of an open and  
13 accessible government in a free society.