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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 707 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY GALLOWAY, KINSEY, KIM, MILLARD, BIZZARRO, BURNS,  
KORTZ, RYAN, FREEMAN, SAMUELSON, HOWARD, YOUNGBLOOD,  
SCHLOSSBERG, T. DAVIS, MURT, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, HARKINS,  
PASHINSKI, DEASY, ROEBUCK, DeLUCA AND NEILSON,  
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 month of March 2020 as "Ancient Order of  
2 Hibernians Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is the oldest  
4 lay Catholic ethnic organization in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The AOH can trace its origins back to the 16th  
6 century, when secret societies formed in Ireland to protect the  
7 Irish people and the Roman Catholic Church against  
8 discrimination during the Protestant Reformation; and

9 WHEREAS, Oppressive conditions and periodic crop failures  
10 prompted many Irish to emigrate in the late 18th and early 19th  
11 centuries; and

12 WHEREAS, Many Irish people settled in America and were faced  
13 with ethnic and religious discrimination that prompted the  
14 desire for a secretive society such as those that had existed in  
15 Ireland; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1836, a group of miners from Schuylkill County

1 known as the Hibernian Benevolent Society met with Irish  
2 Catholics in New York City, which led to the formation of the  
3 first division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; and

4 WHEREAS, As the number of Irish people in America grew due to  
5 emigration during the Irish famine of the 1840s, the AOH grew as  
6 well, with a mission to assist Irish immigrants in finding jobs  
7 and social services and protect Catholic Church property; and

8 WHEREAS, The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians originated in  
9 1894 when the ladies' organization Daughters of Erin was  
10 officially recognized at an AOH national convention in Omaha,  
11 Nebraska; and

12 WHEREAS, Today, the AOH is the most broadly based Irish-  
13 American organization, with more than 46,000 members in America,  
14 Canada and Ireland, including more than 7,500 members in  
15 Pennsylvania; and

16 WHEREAS, The AOH welcomes newly arrived Irish people to  
17 America and seeks to provide a bridge with Ireland for those who  
18 are generations removed from their ancestral homeland by  
19 promoting Irish heritage and culture and the study of the Gaelic  
20 language; and

21 WHEREAS, Every year, the AOH donates millions of dollars to  
22 charitable causes and awards thousands of dollars in  
23 scholarships to affiliated youths; and

24 WHEREAS, The AOH recognizes March 17 as one of its legal  
25 holidays to honor the teachings and ideals of Saint Patrick;  
26 therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
28 month of March 2020 as "Ancient Order of Hibernians Month" in  
29 Pennsylvania.