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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 859 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, SOLOMON, GROVE, KENYATTA, MADDEN,  
MILLARD, STEPHENS, ROTHMAN, RYAN, SCHWEYER, TOMLINSON, KORTZ,  
GALLOWAY, SCHMITT, BERNSTINE, DELLOSO, JAMES, DeLUCA,  
YOUNGBLOOD, MACKENZIE, HOWARD, GAINNEY AND ROWE, MAY 4, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 4, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 14, 2020, as "Israel Independence Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The land of Israel is the birthplace of the Jewish  
4 people and, despite Jewish exile, the land remains the place  
5 where their religious, spiritual and national identity was  
6 formed; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1897, the First Zionist Congress proclaimed the  
8 right of the Jewish people to national revival in their own  
9 country, a right acknowledged in 1917 by the Balfour Declaration  
10 and later reaffirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The atrocities of the Nazi Holocaust and the deaths  
13 of millions of Jews in Europe reestablished and refocused the  
14 need for an independent Jewish state; and

15 WHEREAS, The members of the National Council representing the  
16 Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world  
17 met and issued a Declaration of Israel's Independence on May 14,

1 1948; and

2 WHEREAS, On the same day, the President of the United States,  
3 Harry S. Truman, recognized the provisional Jewish government as  
4 de facto authority of the Jewish state; and

5 WHEREAS, This date is celebrated as Independence Day, a  
6 national holiday in Israel with celebrations and observations to  
7 commemorate this momentous occasion in establishing the State of  
8 Israel; and

9 WHEREAS, In a relatively brief time and despite difficult  
10 challenges relating to the issues of peace and security, Israel  
11 has emerged from a fledgling state to one with a successful  
12 democracy, a strong economy and a powerful military; therefore  
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 14,  
15 2020, as "Israel Independence Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That all residents of this Commonwealth recognize  
18 the struggles of the Israeli people for freedom in their  
19 homeland.