

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 51 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, LEE, HILL-EVANS, GUZMAN, KIRKLAND, FREEMAN, SANCHEZ, KINSEY, D. WILLIAMS, BURNS, KENYATTA, N. NELSON, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, GALLOWAY, SCHLOSSBERG, SAMUELSON, ZABEL, NEILSON, MERSKI, SCHWEYER, CIRESI, DeLUCA, HOHENSTEIN, ROZZI, MENTZER, ISAACSON, WEBSTER, RABB, DEASY, A. DAVIS, PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL, O'MARA, SIMS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, SAINATO AND McCLINTON, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of February 2021 as "Black History Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The contributions of African-American citizens as
4 scientists, inventors, legislators, farmers, educators,
5 explorers and countless other professions have positively
6 impacted every sphere of influence within this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1915, in response to the dearth of information
8 that existed in the public domain regarding the feats and
9 accomplishments of African Americans, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson,
10 an African-American historian, founded the Association for the
11 Study of Negro Life and History, which is now known as the
12 Association for the Study of African American Life and History
13 (ASALH); and

14 WHEREAS, In an effort to further build upon the mission and
15 scope of the ASALH, on February 7, 1926, Dr. Woodson designated

1 the second week of February as "Negro History Week," which was
2 chosen for the initial weeklong celebration to honor the birth
3 month of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick
4 Douglass; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson, often referred to as the "Father of
6 Black History," dedicated his life to the field of African-
7 American history and encouraged the coordinated teaching and
8 study of the history of African Americans in our nation's
9 schools; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1928, ASALH established its first annual theme
11 for what was then known as "Negro History Week," which was
12 "Civilization: A World Achievement"; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the course of several decades following the
14 inception of "Negro History Week," many local municipalities,
15 colleges and universities across the country began celebrating
16 the observance in an augmented form as "Black History Month";
17 and

18 WHEREAS, In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized
19 and included "Black History Month" as part of the United States
20 Bicentennial, urging Americans to "seize the opportunity to
21 honor the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans
22 in every area of human endeavor throughout our history"; and

23 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus has always
24 endeavored to vigorously advocate for the needs of all people of
25 color in this Commonwealth by acting as a unified voice
26 concerning the issues that most acutely impact their daily
27 lives; and

28 WHEREAS, This year's "Black History Month" theme, as
29 established and adopted by ASALH, is "The Black Family:
30 Representation, Identity, and Diversity"; and

1 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" is an opportunity for all
2 citizens to commemorate the historical hardships and
3 achievements of African Americans, laud their invaluable
4 contributions to both our domestic and global community and
5 acknowledge the sacrifices that African Americans have made on
6 behalf and in defense of our great nation; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
8 month of February 2021 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania;
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
11 residents of this Commonwealth to learn and explore the rich and
12 significant heritage of African Americans.