
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 67 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, LEE, HILL-EVANS, GUZMAN, SCHLOSSBERG,
WEBSTER, A. DAVIS, KINSEY, BENHAM, SANCHEZ, VITALI,
HOHENSTEIN, ISAACSON, BURNS, KIRKLAND, McNEILL, FREEMAN,
LONGIETTI, STURLA, GAINEY, SOLOMON, N. NELSON, DELLOSO,
R. BROWN AND PASHINSKI, MARCH 1, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 1, 2021

A CONCURRENT 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
16 the second week of February as "Negro History Week," which was

1 chosen for the initial weeklong celebration to honor the birth
2 month of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick
3 Douglass; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" is an opportunity for all

1 citizens to commemorate the historical hardships and
2 achievements of African Americans, laud their invaluable
3 contributions to both our domestic and global community and
4 acknowledge the sacrifices that African Americans have made on
5 behalf and in defense of our great nation; therefore be it

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

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