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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 134 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, SAMUELSON, McCLINTON, SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE,  
SCHLOSSBERG, A. DAVIS, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN, CONKLIN,  
HOHENSTEIN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, McNEILL, MENTZER, DELLOSO,  
SOLOMON, N. NELSON, MADDEN, BROOKS, CIRESI, MALAGARI, NEILSON  
AND DRISCOLL, AUGUST 31, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, AUGUST 31, 2021

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A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 15 through October 15, 2021, as "Hispanic  
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" is celebrated in  
4 the United States to honor the history, culture and influence of  
5 past generations who came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and  
6 Central and South America; and

7 WHEREAS, Hispanics were the earliest European settlers to  
8 arrive at our great nation, founding settlements in Florida in  
9 the 1500s; and

10 WHEREAS, Mexicans established homesteads in the southwest in  
11 the 1600s; and

12 WHEREAS, Spanish was the first European language spoken in  
13 the New World; and

14 WHEREAS, Latinos are the largest ethnic minority in the  
15 United States today, and in Pennsylvania, more than 7% of the  
16 population identify as Hispanic or Latino; and

1       WHEREAS, The Hispanic population plays a key role in our  
2 country's socioeconomic, political and cultural development; and

3       WHEREAS, The United States Hispanic population reached a  
4 record 60.6 million individuals in 2019, an increase of 930,000  
5 over the previous year; and

6       WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans share deep family values,  
7 recognize their obligations to individuals who are less  
8 fortunate and cherish freedom and what it means to be an  
9 American; and

10       WHEREAS, Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have  
11 shown their devotion to the nation through military service and  
12 have fought in every war since the nation's founding; and

13       WHEREAS, More than 80,000 Hispanic Americans served with  
14 distinction in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5% of individuals  
15 who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in the  
16 conflict despite Hispanic Americans comprising only 4.5% of the  
17 population of the United States during that time; and

18       WHEREAS, As of 2019, there are more than 200,000 Hispanic  
19 active duty service members serving in the armed forces of the  
20 United States; and

21       WHEREAS, "National Hispanic Heritage Month" originated in  
22 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson first proclaimed "National  
23 Hispanic Heritage Week"; and

24       WHEREAS, On September 15, 1988, President Ronald Reagan  
25 expanded the celebration into a month-long event linked to the  
26 independence anniversaries of several Latin American nations,  
27 including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico  
28 and Chile; and

29       WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" has become a vital  
30 opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural traditions and

1 significant achievements of our Hispanic and Latino American  
2 communities across the Commonwealth; therefore be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September  
4 15 through October 15, 2021, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in  
5 Pennsylvania; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
7 residents to celebrate the value of our diversity and the rich  
8 culture which has made our Commonwealth and our nation so  
9 extraordinary.