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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 41 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, SANCHEZ, GUENST, SOLOMON, DELLOSO, NEILSON  
AND CONKLIN, MARCH 21, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 21, 2023

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania State Song Commission to study the  
2 history of the State song of the Commonwealth, solicit  
3 submissions for a new State song and recommend changes to the  
4 State song.

5 WHEREAS, During the 1987-1988 legislative session, the chair  
6 of the House State Government Committee led a committee tasked  
7 with recommending a State song for the Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, The committee was composed of representatives from  
9 the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, the Pennsylvania  
10 Council on the Arts, professional musicians and members of the  
11 public; and

12 WHEREAS, After receiving hundreds of song submissions from  
13 the public, the committee selected the song "Pennsylvania" by  
14 Eddie Khoury and Ronnie Bonner; and

15 WHEREAS, The act of November 29, 1990 (P.L.598, No.150),  
16 referred to as the Official State Song Act, adopted the song  
17 "Pennsylvania" as the official State song of the Commonwealth;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of this Commonwealth to adopt

1 a State song that represents the culture, history, spirit and  
2 people of Pennsylvania; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
4 establish the Pennsylvania State Song Commission to study the  
5 history of the State song of the Commonwealth, solicit  
6 submissions for a new State song and recommend changes to the  
7 State song; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following  
9 members:

10 (1) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
11 Senate;

12 (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
13 Senate;

14 (3) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
15 House of Representatives;

16 (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
17 House of Representatives;

18 (5) one representative from the Pennsylvania Music  
19 Educators Association;

20 (6) one representative from the Pennsylvania Council on  
21 the Arts;

22 (7) one representative from the American Federation of  
23 Musicians who, at the time of the formation of the  
24 commission, resides in this Commonwealth; and

25 (8) two members of the public appointed by the Governor;  
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the commission hold its first meeting within  
28 60 days of the adoption of this resolution and meet no less than  
29 quarterly thereafter; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That at its first meeting, the commission elect one

1 member to serve as chair of the commission; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the commission has the authority to add  
3 additional members to the commission and create subgroups within  
4 the commission as it sees fit; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the commission seek comments and submissions  
6 from the public on recommendations for a new State song; and be  
7 it further

8 RESOLVED, That the commission choose a song, or songs, to  
9 recommend to the General Assembly to become the new State song;  
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the members of the commission serve without  
12 compensation but be reimbursed for all necessary and reasonable  
13 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties; and be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission  
16 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of  
17 Representatives; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the approval of the President pro tempore of  
19 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be  
20 required to preauthorize all proposed actions of the commission  
21 that will entail the expenditure of State funds and approve all  
22 expenditures, including expense reimbursement requests of  
23 commission members, prior to payment; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That nothing in this concurrent resolution preclude  
25 the commission from consulting or seeking the expertise of any  
26 individual, nonprofit entity, Commonwealth agency or office or  
27 legislative committee of the General Assembly to aid with the  
28 selection of a new State song; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the commission issue a final report with its  
30 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly within 12

1 months of the adoption of this resolution.