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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 466 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY FLEMING, PISCIOTTANO, MARSHALL, VENKAT, HILL-  
EVANS, JAMES, KHAN, GIRAL, MERSKI, KINSEY, OBERLANDER,  
NEILSON, HADDOCK, BENHAM AND MAYES, MAY 7, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 7, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 6, 2024, as "Mario Lemieux Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Mario Lemieux was born October 5, 1965, in Montreal,  
4 Quebec, Canada; and

5 WHEREAS, Following a stellar Major Junior hockey career in  
6 the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, the Pittsburgh Penguins  
7 drafted Mario "Le Magnifique" Lemieux with the first overall  
8 pick in the 1984 National Hockey League (NHL) Entry Draft on  
9 June 9, 1984; and

10 WHEREAS, As a rookie Mario Lemieux scored 100 points, was the  
11 first rookie to win the Most Valuable Player award for the NHL's  
12 All-Star Game and won the Calder Memorial Trophy as Rookie of  
13 the Year; and

14 WHEREAS, At the conclusion of the 1987-1988 season, Mario  
15 Lemieux scored 168 points winning the Art Ross Trophy as the  
16 NHL's top scorer and the Hart Memorial Trophy as the league's  
17 most valuable player to his team; and

1       WHEREAS, Mario Lemieux followed that campaign up, scoring 199  
2 points the next season, leading the Pittsburgh Penguins to their  
3 first playoff appearance in seven years; and

4       WHEREAS, On December 31, 1998, Mario Lemieux scored eight  
5 points against the New Jersey Devils with five goals being  
6 scored five different ways, including even-strength, power play,  
7 shorthanded, penalty shot and empty net; and

8       WHEREAS, During the 1990-1991 and 1991-1992 seasons, Mario  
9 Lemieux led the Pittsburgh Penguins to back-to-back Stanley Cup  
10 victories defeating the Minnesota North Stars and Chicago  
11 Blackhawks in the final series' respectively, winning the Conn  
12 Smythe Trophy as the playoffs' Most Valuable Player on both  
13 occasions; and

14       WHEREAS, On January 12, 1993, Mario Lemieux announced he had  
15 been diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma, a rare form of cancer  
16 which originates in certain types of white blood cells; and

17       WHEREAS, Mario Lemieux missed two months of games while  
18 undergoing aggressive radiation treatment but returned to action  
19 to win his fourth scoring title totaling 160 points despite  
20 playing 20 fewer games than the runner-up; and

21       WHEREAS, In 1993, he created the Mario Lemieux Foundation to  
22 fund medical research and support families in challenging  
23 medical situations; and

24       WHEREAS, Austin's Playrooms, creative and therapeutic play  
25 spaces in hospitals for children undergoing medical treatment,  
26 were established after Mario Lemieux's son, Austin, was born  
27 prematurely and spent 71 days in the NICU; and

28       WHEREAS, The Mario Lemieux Foundation has given Austin's  
29 Playrooms to many organizations, including the University of  
30 Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and the Children's Home of

1 Pittsburgh; and

2 WHEREAS, To date, the Mario Lemieux Foundation has committed  
3 more than \$37 million to cancer research and patient care  
4 initiatives in the Pittsburgh region and beyond; and

5 WHEREAS, Following the 1996-1997 season, in part because of  
6 debilitating back injuries, Mario Lemieux retired and was  
7 inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame immediately, becoming only  
8 the ninth player in NHL history to have the mandatory three-year  
9 waiting period waived; and

10 WHEREAS, Due to the Pittsburgh Penguins dire financial  
11 situation in the late 1990s, the club declared bankruptcy in  
12 November 1998; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to the team asking many players to defer their  
14 salaries, Mario Lemieux was owed more than \$30 million and was  
15 the club's largest creditor; and

16 WHEREAS, With a promise to keep the team in Pittsburgh, Mario  
17 Lemieux took a controlling stake and put a group together to buy  
18 the Penguins; and

19 WHEREAS, In September 1999, Mario Lemieux became the  
20 President, Chairman and CEO of the Pittsburgh Penguins; and

21 WHEREAS, As part of his ownership bid, Mario Lemieux made a  
22 pledge to pay every creditor the organization owed and followed  
23 through on that promise; and

24 WHEREAS, Honoring a wish from Austin who wanted to see his  
25 father play hockey, Mario Lemieux returned to the ice on  
26 December 27, 2000, in a home game against the Toronto Maple  
27 Leafs in which he scored a goal and had two assists; and

28 WHEREAS, Mario Lemieux played his final season in 2005-2006  
29 with then-heralded rookie Sidney Crosby and announced his  
30 permanent retirement on January 24, 2006, at 40 years of age;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, After years of negotiations with State and municipal  
3 governments, on March 13, 2007, Mario Lemieux announced a 30-  
4 year lease agreement for a new multipurpose arena in Pittsburgh;

5 and

6 WHEREAS, With Mario Lemieux as owner of the Pittsburgh  
7 Penguins, the franchise has won three additional Stanley Cup  
8 Championships in 2009, 2016 and 2017; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June 6,  
10 2024, as "Mario Lemieux Day" in Pennsylvania.