



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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*Introduced by: Pryor, Shackelford, Bartlett, Harris,  
Hatcher, Jackson, Pack, Porter, Smith V, Summers*

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1           A HOUSE RESOLUTION celebrating Black History  
2           Month.

3           *Whereas, Black history has been celebrated by Americans*  
4           *each year since 1926, first as Negro History Week and later as*  
5           *Black History Month;*

6           *Whereas, Blacks have been in America since colonial times,*  
7           *but it was not until the 20th century that they were represented*  
8           *in history books;*

9           *Whereas, The celebration of Black History Month and the*  
10          *study of Black history came into being through the efforts of Dr.*  
11          *Carter G. Woodson;*

12          *Whereas, Dr. Woodson's parents were former slaves, and he*

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1 *spent his childhood working in the West Virginia coal mines;*

2 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson enrolled in high school at age 20,*  
3 *graduated within two years, and went on to earn a Ph.D. from*  
4 *Harvard University;*

5 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson was disturbed to find that history*  
6 *books largely ignored the Black American population and*  
7 *mentioned Blacks only in ways that reflected the inferior social*  
8 *position they were assigned at the time;*

9 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson began the task of writing Black*  
10 *Americans into the nation's history;*

11 *Whereas, Through the efforts of Dr. Woodson, several*  
12 *organizations were established as a way to bring national*  
13 *attention to the contributions of Black people throughout*  
14 *American history, including the Association for the Study of*  
15 *Negro Life and History, founded in 1915 (now known as the*  
16 *Association for the Study of African American Life and*  
17 *History), "The Journal of Negro History" (now known as "The*  
18 *Journal of African American History"), and, in 1926, the*  
19 *establishment of Negro History Week;*

20 *Whereas, Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February*  
21 *for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two*  
22 *men who greatly influenced the Black American population:*  
23 *Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln;*

24 *Whereas, Black History Month, celebrated in February,*  
25 *acknowledges the achievements of Blacks in the military, arts,*  
26 *civil rights, education, entertainment, history, law, literature,*  
27 *medicine, music, politics, science, sports, and other areas;*

28 *Whereas, The goal of Black History Month is to bridge the*  
29 *gap created by American history's failure to accurately*  
30 *acknowledge, portray, and record the contributions and*  
31 *inventions of Blacks; and*

32 *Whereas, Black Americans reflect a legacy of courage and*  
33 *dedication that has helped to guide our nation's success and*  
34 *prosperity: Therefore,*



1           *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
2           *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

3           SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly  
4 acknowledges the many contributions and accomplishments of  
5 Black Americans throughout the history of the United States  
6 and Indiana.

7           SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly urges  
8 entities and organizations to celebrate Black History Month.

