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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 694 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY MICCARELLI, PASHINSKI, SCHWEYER, KILLION, McNEILL,  
BISHOP, DIGIROLAMO, COHEN, ROZZI, HENNESSEY, V. BROWN,  
CALTAGIRONE, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, HARKINS, O'BRIEN, DAVIS,  
READSHAW, THOMAS, SONNEY, BARRAR, HARHART, VEREB, BROWNLEE,  
O'NEILL, MILLARD, FARINA, A. HARRIS, C. PARKER, REGAN,  
DeLUCA, YOUNGBLOOD, MAHONEY, MURT, WATSON AND GINGRICH,  
MARCH 3, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 3, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Designating January 12, Joe Frazier's birthday, as "Joe Frazier  
2 Day."

3 WHEREAS, The son of a sharecropper, Joe Frazier became a  
4 boxer by accident; and

5 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier first went to a gym to work himself into  
6 shape, and he began fighting competitively and became one of the  
7 best amateur heavyweights in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier won a gold medal in the 1964 Olympics;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier turned pro in 1965 and had 11 straight  
11 wins until he fought Oscar Bonavena in 1966; and

12 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier closed out the 1967 campaign with a 19-0  
13 career record; and

14 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier became World Heavyweight Champion in  
15 1968; and

1       WHEREAS, From 1968 to 1970, Joe Frazier made six defenses of  
2 his title; and

3       WHEREAS, On March 8, 1971, in the 15th round of a fight  
4 between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali before a sellout crowd at  
5 Madison Square Garden, Frazier landed perhaps the most famous  
6 left hook in history, catching Ali on the jaw and dropping the  
7 former champ for a four-count, and at the end of 15 grueling  
8 rounds, Frazier got the nod from all three judges and left the  
9 ring as the undisputed champ; and

10       WHEREAS, The International Boxing Research Organization  
11 (IBRO) rates Joe Frazier among the ten greatest heavyweights of  
12 all time; and

13       WHEREAS, Joe Frazier carried himself with dignity and donated  
14 the vast majority of his money to charity; and

15       WHEREAS, According to ESPN, Joe Frazier's Gym, currently a  
16 converted warehouse located on North Broad Street in  
17 Philadelphia, has been placed on the list of America's 11 Most  
18 Endangered Historical Places by the National Trust for Historic  
19 Preservation.

20       The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
21 hereby enacts as follows:

22 Section 1. Joe Frazier Day.

23       In honor of the birthday of one of the greatest heavyweight  
24 boxers of all time, Joe Frazier, January 12 of each year is  
25 hereby designated as "Joe Frazier Day."

26 Section 2. Effective date.

27       This act shall take effect immediately.