

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 12 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY SMITH-WADE-EL, N. NELSON, PARKER, FLEMING, ABNEY, BELLMON, BURGOS, CARROLL, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, A. BROWN, CEPHAS, CURRY, DAWKINS, GIRAL, GREEN, GUZMAN, J.HARRIS, K.HARRIS, HILL-EVANS, KAZEEM, KENYATTA, KHAN, KRAJEWSKI, MADSEN, MAYES, McCLINTON, POWELL, RABB, SCOTT, VENKAT, D. WILLIAMS, YOUNG, HANBIDGE, McNEILL, VITALI, FREEMAN, BRENNAN, WAXMAN, SAMUELSON, PROBST, PIELLI, FIEDLER, GUENST, SAPPEY, MENTZER AND NEILSON, JANUARY 17, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 17, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of February 2025 as "Black History Month"  
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The contributions of African-American citizens as  
4 scientists, inventors, legislators, farmers, educators,  
5 explorers and countless other professions have positively  
6 impacted every sphere of influence within this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1915, in response to the dearth of information  
8 that existed in the public domain regarding the feats and  
9 accomplishments of African Americans, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson,  
10 an African-American historian, founded the Association for the  
11 Study of Negro Life and History, which is now known as the  
12 Association for the Study of African American Life and History  
13 (ASALH); and

14 WHEREAS, In an effort to further build upon the mission and  
15 scope of the ASALH, on February 7, 1926, Dr. Woodson designated

1 the second week of February as "Negro History Week," which was  
2 chosen for the initial weeklong celebration to honor the birth  
3 month of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick  
4 Douglass; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson, often referred to as the "Father of  
6 Black History," dedicated his life to the field of African-  
7 American history and encouraged the coordinated teaching and  
8 study of the history of African Americans in our nation's  
9 schools; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1928, ASALH established its first annual theme  
11 for what was then known as "Negro History Week," which was  
12 "Civilization: A World Achievement"; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the course of several decades following the  
14 inception of "Negro History Week," many local municipalities,  
15 colleges and universities across the country began celebrating  
16 the observance in an augmented form as "Black History Month";  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized  
19 and included "Black History Month" as part of the United States  
20 Bicentennial, urging Americans to "seize the opportunity to  
21 honor the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans  
22 in every area of human endeavor throughout our history"; and

23 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus has always  
24 endeavored to vigorously advocate for the needs of all people of  
25 color in this Commonwealth by acting as a unified voice  
26 concerning the issues that most acutely impact their daily  
27 lives; and

28 WHEREAS, This year's "Black History Month" theme, as  
29 established and adopted by ASALH, is "African Americans and  
30 Labor," acknowledging the profound role that work of all kinds,

1 free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and  
2 voluntary, has played in the experiences of Black people; and  
3 WHEREAS, The labor movement and civil rights movement have  
4 always been intertwined in this nation and this Commonwealth;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Due to the work of Black labor activists in  
7 Philadelphia, the United States President announced The  
8 Philadelphia Plan in 1967 to increase diversity within the  
9 building trades; and

10 WHEREAS, Today, Black labor leaders and policymakers in  
11 Pennsylvania continue to improve union participation in their  
12 communities through pre-apprenticeship programs and public  
13 awareness campaigns in schools; and

14 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" is an opportunity for all  
15 citizens to commemorate the historical hardships and  
16 achievements of African Americans, laud their invaluable  
17 contributions to both our domestic and global community and  
18 acknowledge the sacrifices that African Americans have made on  
19 behalf and in defense of our great nation; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
21 month of February 2025 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania.