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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 145 Session of 2021

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INTRODUCED BY GUZMAN, BURGOS, HANBIDGE, SANCHEZ, ROZZI, KINSEY, HOWARD, HILL-EVANS, CONKLIN, VITALI, SCHLOSSBERG, SAPPEY, HEFFLEY, T. DAVIS, GUENST, MENTZER, R. BROWN, DELLOSO, MILLARD, McNEILL, O'MARA, BURNS, KIM, N. NELSON, NEILSON, MALAGARI, WEBSTER, HERRIN, FRANKEL, HENNESSEY, INNAMORATO, A. DAVIS, JOZWIAK, D. WILLIAMS, SHUSTERMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, LEE, HOHENSTEIN, LEWIS, PASHINSKI, DeLUCA, KINKEAD, CIRESI AND SAYLOR, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 15 through October 15, 2021, as "Hispanic  
2 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" is recognized every year  
4 in the United States in celebration and honor of the cultures  
5 and contributions of Americans who trace their roots back to  
6 Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America and Spanish-  
7 speaking Caribbean nations; and

8 WHEREAS, This month-long celebration pays tribute to the  
9 generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have had a  
10 positive and enriching influence on our nation and society; and

11 WHEREAS, Esteemed trailblazers to be celebrated include  
12 Dolores Huerta; Cesar Chavez; Sylvia Rivera; Roberto Clemente,  
13 the first Latin American and Caribbean American to win a World  
14 Series as a starting player; Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic-  
15 American woman to go to space and serve as director of the

1 Johnson Space Center; and Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic  
2 American to serve as a member of the United States Supreme  
3 Court; and

4 WHEREAS, The celebration originated as "Hispanic Heritage  
5 Week" from a bill introduced by California Congressman George E.  
6 Brown to recognize the role Hispanic communities played  
7 throughout American history; and

8 WHEREAS, The effort by Congressman Brown eventually led to  
9 Congress passing a law that allowed President Lyndon B. Johnson  
10 to issue the first "Hispanic Heritage Week" in September 1968;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Week" was expanded to a month-  
13 long celebration through the work of California Congressman  
14 Esteban E. Torres and United States Senator Paul Simon from  
15 Illinois who proposed the idea; and

16 WHEREAS, Congressman Torres and Senator Simon successfully  
17 passed a bill through Congress that was signed by President  
18 Ronald Reagan in 1988, allowing President George H.W. Bush to  
19 declare the first "Hispanic Heritage Month" from September 15 to  
20 October 15, 1989; and

21 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" coincides with the  
22 anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador,  
23 Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on September 15; the  
24 anniversary of independence for Mexico on September 16; the  
25 anniversary of independence for Chile on September 18; and Día  
26 de la Raza, which is celebrated on October 12; and

27 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau estimated in 2019  
28 that the United States has a Hispanic population of 60.6 million  
29 making it the largest ethnic minority in the country and Latinos  
30 accounting for over half of all the United State's population

1 growth since 2010; and

2 WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans have faithfully served in the  
3 United States military throughout the nation's history,  
4 currently making up nearly 16% of the active-duty population;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Nearly 1 million Hispanics call Pennsylvania home,  
7 serving as an integral part of the cultural diversity of this  
8 Commonwealth by sharing their music, food, art, dance and other  
9 aspects of their rich traditions and serving a significant role  
10 within the Pennsylvania economy as business owners, public  
11 servants and essential workers; and

12 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is in debt to many individuals in  
13 Hispanic communities for the significant role they have played  
14 in essential professions during the COVID-19 pandemic,  
15 especially in the agriculture and food services industries in  
16 which Hispanics make up the majority of the workforce  
17 nationally; and

18 WHEREAS, "Hispanic Heritage Month" has long been an important  
19 opportunity to celebrate and honor communities of Hispanic  
20 origin, recognizing that these communities bring significant  
21 value to this Commonwealth; and

22 WHEREAS, These communities serve as fine examples of how all  
23 citizens might live out the values of this Commonwealth through  
24 service, faith and a desire to achieve the American dream;  
25 therefore be it

26 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
27 designate September 15 through October 15, 2021, as "Hispanic  
28 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly call on every  
30 Pennsylvanian to honor the culture and history represented

1 within Hispanic communities through robust learning, service and  
2 celebration, recognizing the positive impact these communities  
3 have on the Commonwealth and the nation.