

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 422 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY BENHAM, KENYATTA, MAYES, SALISBURY, SCOTT, SMITH-WADE-EL, PIELLI, WAXMAN, PROBST, HILL-EVANS, BRENNAN, HOHENSTEIN, HOWARD, McNEILL, WARREN, DONAHUE, VENKAT, ABNEY, KINSEY, RABB, KHAN, SANCHEZ, ROZZI, MALAGARI, DELLOSO, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, CIRESI, KIM, BOROWSKI, OTTEN, KRAJEWSKI, BURGOS, FRANKEL, CONKLIN, SAPPEY, SHUSTERMAN, GIRAL, FLEMING, MADSEN, MERSKI, KINKEAD, O'MARA AND D. MILLER, MAY 6, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 6, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2024 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Our Commonwealth was founded on the principles of  
4 freedom, fairness and tolerance; and

5 WHEREAS, Through military service, in debates and  
6 demonstrations, at the polls and in countless other acts of  
7 democracy, Pennsylvanians have consistently defended these  
8 principles; and

9 WHEREAS, Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer  
10 or questioning (LGBTQ+) Pennsylvanians and their allies have had  
11 significant roles in the economic, cultural, spiritual and  
12 political development of this Commonwealth while working  
13 tirelessly to maintain and promote culture and history; and

14 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been the site of many pivotal  
15 moments in LGBTQ+ history; and

1       WHEREAS, The activism that has been vital for promoting  
2 tolerance and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community has flourished  
3 in this Commonwealth; and

4       WHEREAS, On April 25, 1965, borrowing a strategy associated  
5 with the African-American civil rights movement, a group of  
6 gender-variant persons of color organized a sit-in to protest  
7 discrimination toward LGBTQ+ individuals at Dewey's lunch  
8 counter in Philadelphia; and

9       WHEREAS, This event has been recognized as the first LGBTQ+  
10 sit-in in the nation and one of the first demonstrations  
11 launched with the goal of protecting the dignity of LGBTQ+  
12 individuals; and

13       WHEREAS, The Annual Reminder marches held in front of the  
14 Liberty Bell on Independence Day from 1965 through 1969 drew  
15 national attention to the LGBTQ+ community's struggle for  
16 liberty and equality; and

17       WHEREAS, Initiatives in keeping with the Dewey's lunch  
18 counter and Annual Reminder demonstrations have generated  
19 greater inclusion among LGBTQ+ Americans in their respective  
20 communities; and

21       WHEREAS, Commonwealth agencies and officers have  
22 traditionally been on the forefront of LGBTQ+ recognition,  
23 regardless of which political party has been in control; and

24       WHEREAS, In 1975, Governor Milton Shapp issued the first  
25 Statewide resolution in the nation recognizing LGBTQ+ equality;  
26 and

27       WHEREAS, In 1976, Governor Shapp established the Pennsylvania  
28 Council for Sexual Minorities, the first governmental body in  
29 the nation to examine LGBTQ+ issues; and

30       WHEREAS, In 1979, Governor Richard Thornburgh became the

1 first Republican governor in the nation to issue a Statewide  
2 resolution recognizing LGBTQ+ equality; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians remain committed to advancing LGBTQ+  
4 inclusion and quality of life; and

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to *Philadelphia Gay News*,  
6 the oldest continually published magazine devoted to LGBTQ+  
7 issues; and

8 WHEREAS, The John C. Anderson Apartments in Philadelphia, one  
9 of the nation's first affordable LGBTQ+ elder housing  
10 facilities, and the Persad Center in Pittsburgh, the second  
11 oldest licensed counseling center serving the LGBTQ+ community  
12 and people living with HIV, offer additional resources; and

13 WHEREAS, The month of June is recognized worldwide as "LGBTQ+  
14 Pride Month" to commemorate the Stonewall riots in New York  
15 City, considered to be a turning point in the fight for global  
16 LGBTQ+ equality; and

17 WHEREAS, "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" highlights the work, struggles,  
18 accomplishments and challenges of LGBTQ+ individuals in this  
19 Commonwealth and beyond; and

20 WHEREAS, As a celebration of diversity, "LGBTQ+ Pride Month"  
21 reflects this Commonwealth's unique history of welcoming and  
22 securing equal treatment for all individuals and adds greatly to  
23 the social inclusion and economic health and well-being of our  
24 communities; and

25 WHEREAS, With increasing anti-LGBTQ+ hate, the House of  
26 Representatives must show now more than ever that we stand in  
27 solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and that they deserve to be  
28 visible and heard; and

29 WHEREAS, More work needs to be done to eliminate  
30 discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community; therefore be it

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
2 month of June 2024 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in Pennsylvania.