
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 18 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY STREET, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, A. WILLIAMS, TARTAGLIONE,
SCHWANK, SAVAL, BOSCOLA, KIM, FONTANA, PENNYCUICK, CULVER,
COMITTA, CAPPELLETTI, COSTA, SANTARSIERO AND KANE,
JANUARY 31, 2025

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 31, 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
16 the second week of February as "Negro History Week," which was
17 chosen for the initial weeklong celebration to honor the birth

1 month of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick
2 Douglass; and

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

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, This year's "Black History Month" theme, as
27 established and adopted by ASALH, is "African Americans and
28 Labor," acknowledging the profound role that work of all kinds,
29 free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and
30 voluntary, has played in the experiences of Black people; and

1 WHEREAS, The labor movement and civil rights movement have
2 always been intertwined in this nation and this Commonwealth;
3 and

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

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of February
19 2025 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania.