
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1017 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, SIMS,
KINSEY, BIZZARRO, NEILSON, HENNESSEY, FREEMAN, VAZQUEZ, HILL-
EVANS, READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, PASHINSKI, D. COSTA, WATSON,
DRISCOLL, DEAN, M. QUINN, MILLARD, BRADFORD, SCHWEYER, DALEY
AND CALTAGIRONE, JULY 18, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JULY 18, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week following the second Monday in October as
2 "Indigenous Peoples Week" and the month of October 2018 as
3 "Indigenous Peoples Month" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, In the United States, Native American Indians,
5 Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians are recognized as indigenous
6 peoples; and

7 WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples have inhabited the land that is
8 now known as Pennsylvania and the United States since time
9 immemorial; and

10 WHEREAS, The original inhabitants of Pennsylvania include the
11 Erie, Iroquois, Lenape, Munsee, Shawnee and Susquehannock Native
12 American Indian tribes; and

13 WHEREAS, Of the 50 states, this Commonwealth has one of the
14 most robust Native American Indian histories; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of the foods we eat and the medicines and
16 remedies we use were introduced by indigenous peoples; and

1 WHEREAS, More than one highway in this Commonwealth follows
2 an original Native American Indian trail; and

3 WHEREAS, The culture and society of indigenous peoples have
4 contributed to agricultural development, medicinal discoveries,
5 environmental preservation, commerce, governmental institutions
6 and structure, music, language, art and many other facets of our
7 country, Commonwealth and cities; and

8 WHEREAS, Most Native American Indian tribes were forced to
9 leave Pennsylvania during the 1700s when indigenous peoples were
10 being displaced by colonial expansion; and

11 WHEREAS, Those indigenous peoples not displaced by
12 colonialism were forced to assimilate into European society; and

13 WHEREAS, From the 1800s through the 1900s, the race of many
14 southern and northern Native American Indians was mislabeled,
15 resulting in the dilution of their identities; and

16 WHEREAS, There are no federally recognized Native American
17 Indian tribes or reservations in this Commonwealth today; and

18 WHEREAS, Many indigenous peoples living in our counties,
19 cities, townships, boroughs and towns have persevered through
20 great adversity, trauma and tragedy to maintain their cultural
21 and ethnic identities; and

22 WHEREAS, According to 2016 United States Census Bureau
23 estimates, out of a population of approximately 12.8 million,
24 more than 64,000 Pennsylvanians identify solely as Native
25 American Indian and Alaska Native or solely as Native Hawaiian
26 and other Pacific Islander; and

27 WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples and their cultures are to be
28 respected and honored across this Commonwealth and the nation;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The importance of educating the residents of this

1 Commonwealth about the heritage, history, art, archeology and
2 traditions of indigenous peoples and communities in this
3 Commonwealth is acknowledged; and

4 WHEREAS, By celebrating and honoring indigenous peoples, we
5 reaffirm our commitment to appreciating their unique cultural
6 heritage and ethnic identities; and

7 WHEREAS, Properly recognizing indigenous peoples and their
8 contributions to and influences on this Commonwealth and the
9 nation throughout history is necessary to rectify historical
10 inaccuracies; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
12 week following the second Monday in October as "Indigenous
13 Peoples Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
15 month of October 2018 as "Indigenous Peoples Month" in
16 Pennsylvania; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
18 Pennsylvanians to acknowledge and celebrate the cultures and
19 values of indigenous peoples and to continue efforts to promote
20 the well-being and growth of Pennsylvania's indigenous
21 community.