THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1064 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY WARREN, READSHAW, NEILSON, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO, DiGIROLAMO, KINSEY, MILLARD, CALTAGIRONE, VITALI, DRISCOLL AND DALEY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Spanish influenza
2   pandemic.

3   WHEREAS, The Spanish influenza pandemic occurred between the

4 spring of 1918 and the spring of 1919; and

5   WHEREAS, The Spanish influenza pandemic was caused by an H1N1

6 virus with genes of avian origin but there is no consensus on

7 where the virus originated; and

8   WHEREAS, Symptoms of the Spanish influenza included normal

9 influenza symptoms of fever, chills, muscle pain and headache;

10 and

11   WHEREAS, Many individuals affected by the Spanish influenza

12 developed severe respiratory complications, including pneumonia,

13 which is believed to have caused the most deaths during the

14 pandemic; and

15   WHEREAS, Therapies of the early 1900s had little impact on

16 curbing the influenza and there were no effective vaccinations

17 available to protect against influenza infection; and

1   WHEREAS, Treatment for influenza was largely symptomatic,

2   aiming to reduce fever or pain; and

3   WHEREAS, Allies fighting in World War I called this pandemic

4   "Spanish" influenza because Spain's uncensored press was the

5   first to report freely on the widespread influenza in 1918; and

6   WHEREAS, The Spanish influenza is thought to have infected

7   500 million people worldwide, which was approximately one-third

8   of the planet's population at the time; and

9   WHEREAS, The Spanish influenza killed an estimated 21.5

10 million to 39.3 million people worldwide in three waves,

11 although some sources estimate the deaths at 50 to 100 million;

12 and

13 WHEREAS, Epidemiological data indicates that the first wave

14 of Spanish influenza in the United States began during March

15 1918, at Fort Riley military base in Kansas; and

16 WHEREAS, An estimated 1,100 soldiers at Fort Riley were

17 affected by the first wave of the influenza outbreak; and

18 WHEREAS, It is believed that the transport of hundreds of

19 thousands of infected troops in close physical contact between

20 camps caused the influenza to spread quickly; and

21 WHEREAS, The troops then brought the influenza to the army

22 barracks, military camps and trenches of Europe while fighting

23 in World War I; and

24 WHEREAS, The second wave of Spanish influenza was much more

25 fatal and spread globally from September to November 1918; and

26 WHEREAS, October 1918 was the most deadly month in the United

27 States, when 195,000 Americans died from the influenza; and

28 WHEREAS, The third wave of Spanish influenza was similar in

29 intensity to the second wave and occurred during the winter and

30 early spring of 1919 in the United States and worldwide; and

1   WHEREAS, An estimated 675,000 Americans died of the influenza

2 during the pandemic; and

3   WHEREAS, The majority of individuals who died from Spanish

4 influenza were young, healthy adults between 15 and 44 years of

5 age; and

6   WHEREAS, The first case of Spanish influenza diagnosed in

7 Pennsylvania was reported on September 18, 1918, in

8 Philadelphia; and

9   WHEREAS, At the time of the outbreak in Philadelphia, 75% of

10 Philadelphia's hospitals' medical and surgical staffs were

11 overseas; and

12   WHEREAS, This significant personnel shortage helped

13 contribute to the Spanish influenza's deadly impact; and

14   WHEREAS, The influenza spread to Pittsburgh three weeks after

15 it was first diagnosed in Philadelphia; and

16   WHEREAS, By October 1918, 350,000 cases of Spanish influenza

17 were reported in Pennsylvania, with 150,000 of the cases coming

18 from Philadelphia; and

19   WHEREAS, By the spring of 1919, it is estimated that there

20 were more than 12,000 deaths in Philadelphia alone from the

21 influenza; and

22   WHEREAS, The high mortality rate and rapid spread of Spanish

23 influenza illustrates the need to further understand the origins

24 of this devastating pandemic; and

25   WHEREAS, Public health organizations, including the Centers

26 for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health

27 Organization, have used their scientific expertise and resources

28 to address the continuing threat and burden of influenza; and

29   WHEREAS, Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Spanish

30 influenza pandemic serves as a reminder of the critical role

1 public health programs play in modern society through prevention

2 of disease and in minimizing the spread of disease to avoid a

3 pandemic like the Spanish influenza in 1918; therefore be it

4   RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the

5 100th anniversary of the Spanish influenza pandemic.