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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1070 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, DiGIROLAMO, CORBIN, LONGIETTI, DRISCOLL,  
SONNEY, DUSH, TOOHL, KIRKLAND, MILLARD, COHEN, WATSON,  
DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, NEILSON, D. COSTA, BULLOCK,  
WARD, McNEILL, M. DALEY, ROSS AND MAHONEY, OCTOBER 17, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 17, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 19, 2016, as "Lock 'Em Up Day in PA."

2 WHEREAS, Misuse and abuse of prescription drugs has serious  
3 social and public health consequences; and

4 WHEREAS, Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental  
5 death nationwide; and

6 WHEREAS, Relatives and friends are the primary sources of  
7 commonly abused prescription drugs; and

8 WHEREAS, Prescription opioid abuse is recognized as a State  
9 and national epidemic; and

10 WHEREAS, Opioid medications and other prescription drugs must  
11 always be stored securely; and

12 WHEREAS, Any person having prescription drugs at home is at  
13 risk for medication diversion, the transfer of a legally  
14 prescribed controlled substance for unlawful distribution or  
15 use; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the National Survey on Drug Use and

1 Health, 70% of controlled substance prescription abusers obtain  
2 their drugs from a family member or friend; and

3 WHEREAS, The survey further reflects that 53% of persons 12  
4 years of age or older who used pain relievers nonmedically  
5 during the prior year had obtained them from a family member or  
6 friend; and

7 WHEREAS, A Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
8 research brief using data from 2000 through 2014 shows a 225%  
9 increase in the number of hospitalizations for overdose of pain  
10 medication and a 162% increase in the number of hospitalizations  
11 for overdose of heroin; and

12 WHEREAS, Opioid overdose caused the deaths of more than 2,500  
13 Pennsylvanians in 2014; and

14 WHEREAS, Safe storage practices include locking prescription  
15 drugs in a secure drawer or cabinet that is out of sight and out  
16 of reach of children, visitors and other family members; and

17 WHEREAS, Consistently returning medication to its secure  
18 location after each use is another important step in curbing the  
19 State and national opioid epidemic; and

20 WHEREAS, Authorized take-back programs in our communities  
21 allow consumers to promptly, safely and responsibly dispose of  
22 most types of unused medications; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October  
24 19, 2016, as "Lock 'Em Up Day in PA" to ensure proper storage  
25 and disposal of opioids and other prescription drugs.