
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 541 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, MACKENZIE, KINSEY, READSHAW, WATSON,
LONGIETTI, QUIGLEY, B. MILLER, PEIFER, DRISCOLL, DUSH,
SONNEY, SOLOMON, SCHLOSSBERG, FREEMAN, MURT, BOBACK, McNEILL,
PASHINSKI, V. BROWN, JAMES, W. KELLER, O'BRIEN, WARD, ROZZI,
CALTAGIRONE, HENNESSEY, NEILSON, MILLARD, TOEPEL, MENTZER,
GOODMAN, D. COSTA, DONATUCCI, MARSICO, GILLEN AND HAHN,
OCTOBER 2, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 2, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 1 through 7, 2017, as
2 "Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch) Heritage Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, There are communities of Pennsylvania Dutch
4 (Deutsch) living in many parts of the United States and Canada,
5 however, the largest settlement is in Pennsylvania, concentrated
6 in the eastern part of this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch), also called
8 Pennsylvania Germans or Pennsylvania Deutsch, are descendants of
9 early German immigrants to Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, The word "Dutch" does not refer to people from
11 Holland, but is an English adaptation of Deutsch, the German
12 word for "German"; and

13 WHEREAS, Both the "Dutch" and "Deutsch" spellings are
14 commonly used and refer to the same people and culture; and

15 WHEREAS, The first major emigration of Germans to America

1 resulted in the founding of the Borough of Germantown in
2 northwest Philadelphia County on October 6, 1683; and

3 WHEREAS, The German population arrived in droves, mostly
4 before 1800, to escape religious persecution in Europe and seek
5 a better life; and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch) maintained numerous
7 religious affiliations; and

8 WHEREAS, Over time the various dialects spoken by these
9 immigrants fused into a unique dialect known as Pennsylvania
10 German or Pennsylvania "Dutch" (Deutsch); and

11 WHEREAS, At one time, over one-third of Pennsylvania's
12 population spoke this language, impacting the local dialect of
13 English; and

14 WHEREAS, Substantial Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch) literature,
15 art and architecture exist and many written records were adorned
16 with illuminated writing; and

17 WHEREAS, Articles, including pottery, furniture, needlework
18 and barns made use of decorative motifs, often of a highly
19 artistic nature; and

20 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Germans have greatly contributed to the
21 culture of this Commonwealth, and the Pennsylvania German
22 Society, organized in 1891, has published abundant material
23 relative to the history and folklore of the Pennsylvania Dutch
24 (Deutsch); therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
26 week of October 1 through 7, 2017, as "Pennsylvania Dutch
27 (Deutsch) Heritage Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage
29 participation in State and local observances celebrating the
30 contributions and history of the Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch) to

1 this Commonwealth.