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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 900 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, COOK-ARTIS, KIRKLAND, COHEN, MACKENZIE,  
WHEELAND, HENNESSEY, FREEMAN, BIZZARRO, THOMAS, LONGIETTI,  
VEREB, MURT, ROZZI, SCHREIBER, READSHAW, BULLOCK, MAJOR,  
MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, McNEILL,  
DiGIROLAMO, GIBBONS, ROSS, SAYLOR, EVERETT, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
D. COSTA AND ROEBUCK, MAY 19, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 19, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the months of June, July and August 2016 as "Summer  
2 Reading Games Months 2016" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Libraries throughout this Commonwealth contribute to  
4 the intellectual growth of children and teens during the summer  
5 months through reading programs. According to the American  
6 Library Association, summer reading programs began in the 1890s  
7 as a way to encourage school children, particularly those in  
8 urban areas who were not needed for farm work, to read during  
9 summer vacation, use the library and develop a habit of reading;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Summer reading programs attract children and teens  
12 to libraries where they can participate in reading and cultural  
13 activities. Children and teens benefit from summer programs that  
14 combine elements of youth development principles with academic  
15 enrichment; and

1       WHEREAS, Visiting local libraries provides children with  
2 access to unlimited amounts of reading materials; and

3       WHEREAS, Studies done by researchers at Johns Hopkins  
4 University in Baltimore, Maryland, show that disadvantaged youth  
5 fall significantly behind other students because of a lack of  
6 access to reading materials and a loss of encouragement in the  
7 home and elsewhere to participate in any reading. Such a drop-  
8 off of reading outside of the school year results in achievement  
9 gaps not only in school, but also later in life. Communities  
10 that offer summer reading encourage youth to develop reading as  
11 a lifelong habit, draw in reluctant readers through activities,  
12 help ensure children, particularly those in disadvantaged homes,  
13 to read during the summer months to maintain and increase  
14 reading skills and generate interest in free public libraries  
15 and the services they offer; and

16       WHEREAS, Schools and public librarians throughout this  
17 Commonwealth and the nation have cooperatively produced summer  
18 reading lists to enhance both learning and recreation. Library  
19 officials in Pennsylvania have worked with their counterparts  
20 from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa and  
21 the Mariana Islands through the Collaborative Summer Library  
22 Program (CSLP) to provide high-quality summer reading program  
23 materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their  
24 public libraries. The CSLP annually establishes themes for  
25 summer reading. This year's themes are "On Your Mark, Get Set,  
26 Read!" for children, "Get in the Game, Read!" for teens and  
27 "Escape Your Mind, Read!" for adults; and

28       WHEREAS, Support of summer reading programs give all library  
29 users an opportunity to become lifelong readers and learners by  
30 visiting the library frequently. In fact, the Johns Hopkins

1 University and other studies have shown that those who increase  
2 their reading have greater success in school and in the job  
3 market, while those who have difficulty with reading may have a  
4 greater risk of failing in the job field and turning to crime;  
5 therefore be it

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
7 months of June, July and August 2016 as "Summer Reading Games  
8 Months 2016" in Pennsylvania to encourage all children and teens  
9 in this Commonwealth to participate in all summer library  
10 reading programs and to compete in games and other competitions  
11 established by the libraries and other groups to increase summer  
12 reading; and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize all  
14 libraries in Pennsylvania for the summer reading programs that  
15 they offer and urge all State lawmakers, parents and community  
16 leaders to assist, fully support and otherwise get involved in  
17 programs to promote lifelong reading at home and elsewhere by  
18 our children, youths and adults.