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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 295 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY KEARNEY, MENSCH, COLLETT, HAYWOOD, SAVAL, BROWNE,  
BARTOLOTTA, SANTARSIERO, PHILLIPS-HILL, FONTANA, SCHWANK,  
HUGHES AND MARTIN, MAY 23, 2022

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MAY 23, 2022

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating June 19, 2022, as "Korean-American Citizenship  
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The influence of naturalized or natural-born  
4 citizens of Korean-American heritage is observed in all facets  
5 of American life, from politics to industry and entrepreneurship  
6 to volunteerism, as well as the arts and education; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1890, Dr. Philip Jaisohn, a pioneer in  
8 Korean-American history, became the first Korean immigrant to  
9 acquire United States citizenship; and

10 WHEREAS, As the year 2022 marks the 132nd anniversary of the  
11 first Korean-American individual to gain United States  
12 citizenship, Korean Americans unite on June 19 to celebrate this  
13 day as "Korean-American Citizenship Day"; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, Korean-American citizens live throughout the  
15 United States and are part of a vibrant, growing Korean-American  
16 community; and

17 WHEREAS, The Korean-American community is making important

1 contributions in distinguished career fields such as law,  
2 medicine, business, education, architecture and the arts; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Jaisohn, a Korean political refugee who resided  
4 in Media, Pennsylvania, made Philadelphia a central overseas  
5 base for supporting Korean independence; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Jaisohn, a noted champion of the Korean  
7 Independence Movement in America, established the Korean  
8 Information Bureau to publish the Korea Review promoting  
9 political and religious freedom in Korea and the Far East; and

10 WHEREAS, Inspired by the First Continental Congress and  
11 Second Continental Congress of the United States held in  
12 Philadelphia, Dr. Jaisohn, Syngman Rhee, the first president of  
13 the Republic of Korea, and Han Kyong Chung organized the First  
14 Korean Congress in Philadelphia proclaiming the Korean  
15 Declaration of Independence from April 14 through 16, 1919; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Jaisohn and Reverend Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins  
17 founded the League of Friends of Korea, organized in 21 American  
18 cities as well as in London and Paris, with 25,000 members to  
19 educate the general public, community and government leaders  
20 about the aspirations of Korean people; and

21 WHEREAS, First-generation Korean immigrants established  
22 America as their residence and naturalized in order to establish  
23 a new homeland for their children and future generations of  
24 Korean Americans; and

25 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made significant contributions  
26 to the economic vitality and fabric of the United States and the  
27 global marketplace in all facets of government, for-profit or  
28 not-for-profit business and academic communities; and

29 WHEREAS, As naturalized citizens or natural-born citizens,  
30 Korean Americans have been elected to Federal, State and local

1 levels of political office throughout the country; and

2 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have designated June 19, 2022, as  
3 "Korean-American Citizenship Day" to observe the first step in  
4 the long and prosperous journey to United States citizenship for  
5 Korean Americans; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
7 General Assembly commemorate June 19, 2022, as "Korean-American  
8 Citizenship Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly support the goals and  
10 ideals of "Korean-American Citizenship Day" and encourage  
11 immigrants to become naturalized citizens and active civic  
12 participants; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge all Americans to  
14 observe "Korean-American Citizenship Day" to recognize  
15 naturalized Korean Americans and to appreciate their invaluable  
16 contributions made to the United States and this Commonwealth;  
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly honor and recognize the  
19 132nd anniversary of the first United States citizenship granted  
20 to a Korean immigrant, who was a resident of this Commonwealth.