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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 353 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, HUGHES, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, STREET,  
TARTAGLIONE, BROWNE, DILLON AND MUTH, OCTOBER 11, 2022

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 11, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 2 through 8, 2022, as "Voter  
2 Education Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Department of Education declares that young  
4 people and youth voters in this Commonwealth will be prepared to  
5 be responsible, involved citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, Young people play a critical role in our democracy  
7 by helping to choose the people who will lead us and voicing  
8 their opinions on issues that are important to them; and

9 WHEREAS, With approximately 179,000 voters turning 18 years  
10 of age in Pennsylvania each year, youth voters have a  
11 significant impact on the future of this Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, Students are encouraged to participate in our  
13 democracy through civics classes and activities and voter  
14 education programs and by encouraging their peers, members of  
15 their families and communities to register to vote and  
16 participate in elections; and

17 WHEREAS, Increasing civic participation and voter turnout by  
18 young people are critical in bringing resources and funding to

1 provide the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient  
2 system of public education to serve the needs of this  
3 Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, Under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1327(c)(2), voter registration  
5 materials are required to be made available to every public  
6 school; and

7 WHEREAS, To comply with the National Voter Registration Act,  
8 Pennsylvania schools are required to provide voter registration  
9 as a part of Individualized Education Programs for students 17  
10 years of age or older to assist in their transition to adult  
11 life; and

12 WHEREAS, Schools may also comply with this Federal  
13 requirement by providing general school-wide registration  
14 programs offering voter registration opportunities, registration  
15 forms and assistance to all students approaching voting age; and

16 WHEREAS, The Department of State presents the Governor's  
17 Civic Engagement Award to a school that registers at least 65%  
18 of eligible student voters for the Silver Award and 85% for the  
19 Gold Award; and

20 WHEREAS, According to Pew Research, only 6% of students  
21 nationally were asked to register to vote in school; and

22 WHEREAS, It takes a permanent, organized and concerted year-  
23 round commitment in every school to identify, register and  
24 educate eligible students to become informed voters; and

25 WHEREAS, Research shows that if young voters cast a ballot in  
26 two consecutive elections they are more likely to become  
27 habitual lifetime voters; and

28 WHEREAS, If young people fail to register or vote in their  
29 first election, they are more likely to disengage for another  
30 decade and will only return to voting in their 30s; and

1       WHEREAS, Because of COVID-19, voter registration efforts  
2 aimed at young people have been especially challenging due to  
3 closures of schools and government offices and the cancellation  
4 of public events; and

5       WHEREAS, The spread of disinformation and conspiracy theories  
6 have led to racist acts of domestic terrorism and attacks on the  
7 Federal Government and on the institution of democracy itself;  
8 therefore be it

9       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 2  
10 through 8, 2022, as "Voter Education Week" in Pennsylvania.