
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1951 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY BANTA, JOZWIAK AND MARSHALL, JANUARY 9, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 9, 2024

AN ACT

1 Designating June 2 of each year as Pennsylvania Indigenous
2 Peoples' Day in this Commonwealth.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
7 Indigenous Peoples' Day Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) The indigenous peoples of this Commonwealth, the
11 first Americans, have woven rich and diverse threads into the
12 tapestry of the heritage and history of this Commonwealth.

13 (2) American Indians have inhabited the land which is
14 now known as Pennsylvania dating back some 5,000 years.

15 (3) Former State Librarian and Secretary of the
16 Pennsylvania Historical Commission, Dr. George Patterson
17 Donehoo, in his book "A History of the Indian Villages and
18 Place Names in Pennsylvania" stated, "No state in the entire

1 Nation is richer in Indian names, or in fact, in Indian
2 history than Pennsylvania."

3 (4) American Indian culture and society have contributed
4 to the agricultural development, medicinal discoveries,
5 environmental preservation, commerce, governmental
6 institutions and structure and many other facets of our
7 Commonwealth.

8 (5) American Indian culture and American Indians,
9 indigenous peoples, are to be respected and honored.

10 (6) The Commonwealth acknowledges the importance of
11 educating the residents of this Commonwealth about the
12 heritage, history, art, archeology and traditions of the
13 American Indian peoples and communities in this Commonwealth.

14 (7) American Indians continue to contribute to the
15 culture of this Commonwealth through the ancestral
16 preservation of their heritage.

17 (8) Their dedicated efforts to honor their proud
18 heritage assist in developing a deeper understanding within
19 this Commonwealth of the vibrant and ancient customs of the
20 indigenous peoples living in this Commonwealth today.

21 Section 3. Designation.

22 June 2 shall be designated as Pennsylvania Indigenous
23 Peoples' Day in this Commonwealth.

24 Section 4. Construction.

25 Nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring an
26 employer to treat June 2 as a legal or official holiday or to
27 provide paid leave to an employee on June 2 solely by virtue of
28 the date being designated under this act.

29 Section 5. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect immediately.