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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 246 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY KAZEEM, PROBST, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, BOROWSKI  
AND DELLOSO, OCTOBER 24, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 24, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2023 as "William Penn Landing  
2 Site in Chester Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, William Penn, son of Admiral Sir William Penn, was  
4 born in London on October 14, 1644; and

5 WHEREAS, William Penn shocked his contemporaries by  
6 converting to the beliefs of the Society of Friends, or Quakers,  
7 which was then a persecuted sect; and

8 WHEREAS, William Penn used his wealth and status to benefit  
9 and protect his fellow believers; and

10 WHEREAS, King Charles II owed William Penn £16,000, which was  
11 money his late father lent to the king; and

12 WHEREAS, William Penn requested that the debt be settled with  
13 land in the New World to provide a safe haven for his fellow  
14 Quakers; and

15 WHEREAS, William Penn requested land between Lord Baltimore's  
16 province of Maryland and the Duke of York's province of New  
17 York; and

18 WHEREAS, With the Duke's support, Penn's petition was

1 granted; and

2 WHEREAS, King Charles II signed the Charter of Pennsylvania  
3 on March 4, 1681, and it was officially proclaimed on April 2;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The colony was named in honor of William Penn's  
6 father; and

7 WHEREAS, The colony included lands between the 39th and 42nd  
8 degrees of north latitude and from the Delaware River westward  
9 for five degrees of longitude; and

10 WHEREAS, The Duke of York also deeded to Penn his claim to  
11 what is now the state of Delaware; and

12 WHEREAS, William Penn set sail for Pennsylvania on a ship  
13 called the Welcome; and

14 WHEREAS, After 57 days, the Welcome arrived in New Castle,  
15 Delaware; and

16 WHEREAS, However, William Penn did not disembark until he  
17 docked in Chester, Pennsylvania, on what is believed to be  
18 October 29, 1682; and

19 WHEREAS, William Penn marveled at the place and found the  
20 land good and the air serene; and

21 WHEREAS, William Penn renamed the area, which was called  
22 Upland by Swedish settlers, Chester after the city in Cheshire  
23 County, England; and

24 WHEREAS, Chester became Pennsylvania's first incorporated  
25 municipality and William Penn had grand visions for the area;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, William Penn summoned the settlement's largest  
28 landowner, James Sandelands, to negotiate a deal to establish  
29 Chester as the capital of Pennsylvania; and

30 WHEREAS, William Penn and James Sandelands were unable to

1 reach a deal and William Penn looked elsewhere and eventually  
2 founded Philadelphia; and

3 WHEREAS, Chester continues to celebrate the anniversary of  
4 William Penn's landing but its unique place in this  
5 Commonwealth's history has been neglected and overlooked;  
6 therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
8 month of October 2023 as "William Penn Landing Site in Chester  
9 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate this  
11 significant event and recognize Chester's unique place in this  
12 Commonwealth's history.