
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 538 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ AND O'BRIEN, OCTOBER 14, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 14, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to designate Spanish as
2 the official language of the United States and to mandate its
3 use in all official acts of the Federal Government.

4 WHEREAS, Since the adoption of the Declaration of
5 Independence on July 4, 1776, and the founding of the United
6 States of America, regrettably our great nation has been devoid
7 of an official and unifying language; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 90% of the world's nations, excluding the
9 United States of America, have formally adopted an official
10 language; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1565, it was Spanish explorers that established
12 the first permanent settlement, called Saint Augustine, in what
13 is today known as the state of Florida; and

14 WHEREAS, It was these early Spaniard explorations and
15 settlements upon the North American continent, including the
16 Spanish language of these early settlers, that laid the
17 landscape for the formation of what we know today as the United
18 States of America; and

19 WHEREAS, To further underscore the impact of the Spanish

1 language in the United States, there are well over 2,000 cities
2 and towns, dozens of mountains and rivers and several states
3 that possess names derived from the Spanish language; and

4 WHEREAS, More importantly, there are countless intrepid souls
5 of Hispanic descent such as General Benardo de Gálvez and the
6 first Admiral of the United States Navy, Admiral David Glasgow
7 Farragut, who played an instrumental role in the critical
8 military affairs which ultimately led to our nation's much
9 celebrated independence; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States of America has been further
11 enriched by the waves of immigrants that it has both received
12 and welcomed upon its shores, particularly by those of Hispanic
13 descent; and

14 WHEREAS, Innumerable individuals of Hispanic descent have
15 made many great and noteworthy contributions to the United
16 States in all fields of interest, including the fields of
17 medicine, military, politics, aeronautics, academia, labor and
18 industry, business, sports, the arts and entertainment; and

19 WHEREAS, In September 1968, Congress authorized President
20 Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim the week, including September 15
21 and 16, as "National Hispanic Heritage Week" in recognition of
22 the many important contributions made by citizens of Hispanic
23 descent, as well as Latin-American independence; and

24 WHEREAS, On August 17, 1988, under President Ronald Reagan,
25 the observance of "Hispanic Heritage Week" was expanded to a
26 month-long celebration, "National Hispanic Heritage Month,"
27 observed annually from September 15 through October 15; and

28 WHEREAS, Historically the United States' Hispanic population
29 has served as a foundation to the nation's economy and continues
30 to play an integral role in the cultural diversity of our

1 nation; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau, it is
3 estimated that the Latino population comprises 50.5 million of
4 the total population of the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau also projects that
6 the nation's Hispanic population will reach 132.8 million by
7 July 1, 2050, which will constitute 30% of the overall
8 population of the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the Central Intelligence Agency, there
10 are more than 336 million people globally who speak Spanish as
11 their first language; and

12 WHEREAS, The prevalence of the Spanish language and the
13 percentage of first language Spanish-speaking persons is only
14 second in the world to that of the Mandarin language and first
15 language Mandarin-speaking persons; and

16 WHEREAS, In an ever-expanding global economy, the United
17 States' ability to communicate with the citizens and governments
18 of Spanish-speaking countries is critical to preserving our
19 status as a world leader and maintaining our perch upon the
20 pinnacle of the global stage; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States must be forward thinking and
22 preemptive in addressing and embracing both an impending
23 domestic and global demographic transformation; and

24 WHEREAS, Proclaiming Spanish as the official language of the
25 United States serves the overall interests of the United States
26 Government and its citizens by bridging unnecessary cultural and
27 language gaps; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Congress
29 of the United States to designate Spanish as the official
30 language of the United States, and to mandate its use in all

1 official acts of the Federal Government; and be it further
2 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
4 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.