
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 690 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ROZZI, SCHWEYER, THOMAS, COHEN, VEREB, MILLARD,
KAUFFMAN, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, McNEILL, FREEMAN, WATSON,
MURT, YOUNGBLOOD, ROSS, CRUZ, GROVE, KIRKLAND, SCHREIBER,
V. BROWN, NEILSON, MAJOR, MAHONEY AND BIZZARRO,
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 27, 2016, as "Dominican Republic
2 Independence Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On February 27, 2016, the Dominican Republic will
4 celebrate the anniversary of its independence from Haiti; and

5 WHEREAS, Previously, their shared island of Hispaniola had
6 been under Haitian rule for a little more than a couple of
7 decades, after centuries of colonialism, first by the Spanish
8 and then by the French. Nationalist Juan Pablo Duarte helped
9 organize the war against the Haitian regime and is considered
10 one of the founding fathers; and

11 WHEREAS, "Dominican Republic Independence Day" coincides with
12 Carnival, which is celebrated the entire month of February with
13 parades, competitions and spirited events; and

14 WHEREAS, The country is an important partner in hemispheric
15 affairs due to its standing in the Caribbean as the largest
16 economy and second-largest country in terms of population and

1 land mass, its large bilateral trade with the United States and
2 its proximity to the United States and other smaller Caribbean
3 nations; and

4 WHEREAS, The family unit within Dominican society is
5 considered incredibly important and has formed the basis of
6 stability throughout all of the Dominican Republic's political
7 and economic upheaval. Whenever possible the extended family,
8 which usually encompasses three generations, often lives within
9 the same vicinity. Family loyalty is a deeply ingrained
10 characteristic of the Dominican people; and

11 WHEREAS, It is well known that the Dominican Republic is the
12 homeland of much of Major League Baseball, but it is also known
13 for the likes of fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, actress Zoe
14 Salanda, Pulitzer prize-winning novelist Junot Diaz and
15 countless other accomplished persons; and

16 WHEREAS, Dominicans are the fifth-largest population of
17 Hispanic origin living in the United States, accounting for 2.9%
18 of the United States Hispanic population, and Reading is host to
19 the 10th largest community of Dominicans in the United States;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The Dominican-American community contributes to our
22 nation's economic vitality and culture, while maintaining deep
23 connection with their Dominican roots; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
25 February 27, 2016, as "Dominican Republic Independence Day" in
26 Pennsylvania.