
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 698 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY AND WILLIAMS, JANUARY 30, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 30, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of February 2020 as "Black History Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The contributions of African-American citizens as
4 scientists, inventors, legislators, farmers, educators,
5 explorers and countless other professions have positively
6 impacted every sphere of influence within this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1915, in response to the dearth of information
8 that existed in the public domain regarding the feats and
9 accomplishments of African Americans, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson,
10 an African-American historian, founded the Association for the
11 Study of Negro Life and History, which is now known as the
12 Association for the Study of African American Life and History
13 (ASALH); and

14 WHEREAS, In an effort to further build upon the mission and
15 scope of the ASALH, on February 7, 1926, Dr. Woodson designated
16 the second week of February as "Negro History Week," which was
17 chosen for the initial weeklong celebration to honor the birth
18 month of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick

1 Douglass; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson, often referred to as the "Father of
3 Black History," dedicated his life to the field of African-
4 American history and encouraged the coordinated teaching and
5 study of the history of African Americans in our nation's
6 schools; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1928, ASALH established its first annual theme
8 for what was then known as "Negro History Week," which was
9 "Civilization: A World Achievement"; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the course of several decades following the
11 inception of "Negro History Week," many local municipalities,
12 colleges and universities across the country began celebrating
13 the observance in an augmented form as "Black History Month";
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized
16 and included "Black History Month" as part of the United States
17 Bicentennial, urging Americans to "seize the opportunity to
18 honor the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans
19 in every area of human endeavor throughout our history"; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus has always
21 endeavored to vigorously advocate for the needs of all people of
22 color in this Commonwealth by acting as a unified voice
23 concerning the issues that most acutely impact their daily
24 lives; and

25 WHEREAS, This year's "Black History Month" theme, as
26 established and adopted by ASALH, is "African Americans and the
27 Vote"; and

28 WHEREAS, "Black History Month" is an opportunity for all
29 citizens to commemorate the historical hardships and
30 achievements of African Americans, laud their invaluable

1 contributions to both our domestic and global community and
2 acknowledge the sacrifices that African Americans have made on
3 behalf and in defense of our great nation; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
5 month of February 2020 as "Black History Month" in Pennsylvania
6 and encourage all residents of this Commonwealth to learn and
7 explore the rich and significant heritage of African Americans.