PRINTER'S NO. 1666

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 231 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY BENHAM, CARROLL, KENYATTA, MAYES, SALISBURY, SCOTT, SMITH-WADE-EL, RIVERA, McNEILL, WAXMAN, ABNEY, POWELL, PIELLI, GUENST, PROBST, VENKAT, HILL-EVANS, FIEDLER, SCHLOSSBERG, HOHENSTEIN, BURGOS, SHUSTERMAN, ISAACSON, BRENNAN, MERSKI AND SCHWEYER, MAY 8, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 8, 2025

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the month of June 2025 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Our Commonwealth was founded on the principles of freedom, fairness and tolerance; and

WHEREAS, Through military service, in debates and demonstrations, at the polls and in countless other acts of democracy, Pennsylvanians have consistently defended these principles; and

WHEREAS, Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning (LGBTQ+) Pennsylvanians and their allies have had significant roles in the economic, cultural, spiritual and political development of this Commonwealth while working tirelessly to maintain and promote culture and history; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been the site of many pivotal moments in LGBTQ+ history; and

WHEREAS, The activism that has been vital for promoting

tolerance and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community has flourished in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, On April 25, 1965, borrowing a strategy associated with the African-American civil rights movement, a group of gender-variant persons of color organized a sit-in to protest discrimination toward LGBTQ+ individuals at Dewey's lunch counter in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, This event has been recognized as the first LGBTQ+ sit-in in the nation and one of the first demonstrations launched with the goal of protecting the dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals; and

WHEREAS, The Annual Reminder marches held in front of the Liberty Bell on Independence Day from 1965 through 1969 drew national attention to the LGBTQ+ community's struggle for liberty and equality; and

WHEREAS, Initiatives in keeping with the Dewey's lunch counter and Annual Reminder demonstrations have generated greater inclusion among LGBTQ+ Americans in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth agencies and officers have traditionally been on the forefront of LGBTQ+ recognition, regardless of which political party has been in control; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Governor Milton Shapp issued the first Statewide resolution in the nation recognizing LGBTQ+ equality; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Governor Shapp established the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities, the first governmental body in the nation to examine LGBTQ+ issues; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Governor Richard Thornburgh became the first Republican governor in the nation to issue a Statewide

resolution recognizing LGBTQ+ equality; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians remain committed to advancing LGBTQ+ inclusion and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to *Philadelphia Gay News*, the oldest continually published magazine devoted to LGBTQ+ issues; and

WHEREAS, The John C. Anderson Apartments in Philadelphia, one of the nation's first affordable LGBTQ+ elder housing facilities, and the Persad Center in Pittsburgh, the second oldest licensed counseling center serving the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV, offer additional resources; and

WHEREAS, The month of June is recognized worldwide as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" to commemorate the Stonewall riots in New York City, considered to be a turning point in the fight for global LGBTQ+ equality; and

WHEREAS, "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" highlights the work, struggles, accomplishments and challenges of LGBTQ+ individuals in this Commonwealth and beyond; and

WHEREAS, As a celebration of diversity, "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" reflects this Commonwealth's unique history of welcoming and securing equal treatment for all individuals and adds greatly to the social inclusion and economic health and well-being of our communities; and

WHEREAS, With increasing anti-LGBTQ+ hate, the House of Representatives must show now more than ever that we stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and that they deserve to be visible and heard; and

WHEREAS, More work needs to be done to eliminate discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the

month of June 2025 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in Pennsylvania.