

HOUSE BILL No. 4884

September 17, 2015, Introduced by Reps. Santana, Chang, Durhal, Kelly, Guerra, Kosowski, Geiss, Brunner, Cochran, Kivela, LaVoy, Robinson, Yanez, Sarah Roberts, Greig, Rendon, Dianda, Garcia, Pagan and Hughes and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to designate September 15 to October 15 of each year as Hispanic heritage month.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. (1) The legislature recognizes all of the following:

2 (a) There has been a long and important presence of Hispanic
3 and Latino Americans in North America, starting with the discovery
4 of America by Christopher Columbus on October 12, 1492.

5 (b) The month of September 15 to October 15 represents the
6 anniversary of independence for Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador,
7 Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

8 (c) Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage
9 Month from September 15 to October 15 by celebrating the histories,
10 cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors
11 came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South

1 America.

2 (d) Each year, the United States recognizes the economic,
3 cultural, and social contributions that Spanish-speaking peoples
4 have brought to our nation, including the gifts of law, religion,
5 agriculture, art, music, education, technology, architecture,
6 cuisine, theater, and exploration.

7 (e) Time and again throughout our nation's history, Hispanic-
8 Americans have faithfully defended the principles of freedom and a
9 representative government.

10 (f) Eighteenth-century North America had a Hispanic presence,
11 from the small outpost of San Francisco founded in the desolate
12 wilderness of Alta California in 1776, through the Spanish province
13 of Texas with its vaqueros (cowboys), to the fortress of St.
14 Augustine, Florida – the first continuous European settlement in
15 North America, founded in 1565, long before Jamestown, Virginia.

16 (g) Hispanic Heritage Week was approved by President Lyndon
17 Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to
18 cover a 30-day period from September 15 to October 15, and enacted
19 into law on August 17, 1988 as Public Law 100-402.

20 (h) This state is fortunate to count among its population a
21 large concentration of citizens of Spanish and Latin American
22 descent, including those who have lived in this state for
23 generations and those who are new to this state, who contribute to
24 our economy and society through their commitment to professions,
25 commerce, family, and the arts.

26 (i) During the month from September 15 to October 15, this
27 state's Hispanic-American community celebrates Hispanic Heritage

1 Month through a series of special programs featuring Hispanic
2 history, food, dance, and art.

3 (j) National Hispanic Heritage Month is the period of time in
4 the United States when people recognize the contributions of
5 Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate
6 these people's varied heritage, background, and culture.

7 (2) The legislature declares that September 15 to October 15
8 of each year shall be known as "Hispanic Heritage Month".