

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20 _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Referred to Committee on	
Date _____	20 _____
Reported _____	20 _____
As Committed-Amended	
Recommendation	

By Hon. _____	

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Spanish influenza
2 pandemic.

3 WHEREAS, The Spanish influenza pandemic occurred between the
4 spring of 1918 and the spring of 1919; and

5 WHEREAS, The Spanish influenza pandemic was caused by an H1N1
6 virus with genes of avian origin but there is no consensus on
7 where the virus originated; and

8 WHEREAS, Symptoms of the Spanish influenza included normal
9 influenza symptoms of fever, chills, muscle pain and headache;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Many individuals affected by the Spanish influenza
12 developed severe respiratory complications, including pneumonia,
13 which is believed to have caused the most deaths during the
14 pandemic; and

15 WHEREAS, Therapies of the early 1900s had little impact on
16 curbing the influenza and there were no effective vaccinations
17 available to protect against influenza infection; and

1 WHEREAS, Treatment for influenza was largely symptomatic,
2 aiming to reduce fever or pain; and

3 WHEREAS, Allies fighting in World War I called this pandemic
4 "Spanish" influenza because Spain's uncensored press was the
5 first to report freely on the widespread influenza in 1918; and

6 WHEREAS, The Spanish influenza is thought to have infected
7 500 million people worldwide, which was approximately one-third
8 of the planet's population at the time; and

9 WHEREAS, The Spanish influenza killed an estimated 21.5
10 million to 39.3 million people worldwide in three waves,
11 although some sources estimate the deaths at 50 to 100 million;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Epidemiological data indicates that the first wave
14 of Spanish influenza in the United States began during March of
15 1918, at Fort Riley military base in Kansas; and

16 WHEREAS, An estimated 1,100 soldiers at Fort Riley were
17 affected by the first wave of the influenza outbreak; and

18 WHEREAS, It is believed that the transport of hundreds of
19 thousands of infected troops in close physical contact between
20 camps caused the influenza to spread quickly; and

21 WHEREAS, The troops then brought the influenza to the army
22 barracks, military camps and trenches of Europe while fighting
23 in World War I; and

24 WHEREAS, The second wave of Spanish influenza was much more
25 fatal and spread globally from September to November 1918; and

26 WHEREAS, October of 1918 was the most deadly month in the
27 United States, when 195,000 Americans died from the influenza;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The third wave of Spanish influenza was similar in
30 intensity to the second wave and occurred during the winter and

1 early spring of 1919 in the United States and worldwide; and

2 WHEREAS, An estimated 675,000 Americans died of the influenza
3 during the pandemic; and

4 WHEREAS, The majority of individuals who died from Spanish
5 influenza were young, healthy adults between 15 and 44 years of
6 age; and

7 WHEREAS, The first case of Spanish influenza diagnosed in
8 Pennsylvania was reported on September 18, 1918, in
9 Philadelphia; and

10 WHEREAS, At the time of the outbreak in Philadelphia, 75% of
11 Philadelphia's hospitals' medical and surgical staffs were
12 overseas; and

13 WHEREAS, This significant personnel shortage helped
14 contribute to the Spanish influenza's deadly impact; and

15 WHEREAS, The influenza spread to Pittsburgh three weeks after
16 it was first diagnosed in Philadelphia; and

17 WHEREAS, By October of 1918, 350,000 cases of Spanish
18 influenza were reported in Pennsylvania, with 150,000 of the
19 cases coming from Philadelphia; and

20 WHEREAS, By the spring of 1919, it is estimated that there
21 were more than 12,000 deaths in Philadelphia alone from the
22 influenza; and

23 WHEREAS, The high mortality rate and rapid spread of Spanish
24 influenza illustrates the need to further understand the origins
25 of this devastating pandemic; and

26 WHEREAS, Public health organizations, including the Centers
27 for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health
28 Organization, have used their scientific expertise and resources
29 to address the continuing threat and burden of influenza; and

30 WHEREAS, Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Spanish

1 influenza pandemic serves as a reminder of the critical role
2 public health programs play in modern society through prevention
3 of disease and in minimizing the spread of disease to avoid a
4 pandemic like the Spanish influenza in 1918; therefore be it
5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
6 100th anniversary of the Spanish influenza pandemic.