

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 136

Reps. Rheingans, Bezotte, Breen, Brixie, Fitzgerald, Glanville, Haadsma, Hill, Hood, Hope, Hoskins, Lightner, Paiz, Rogers, Schuette and Thompson offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare September 22, 2023, as Michigan Indian
2 Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The state of Michigan is home to many people
4 indigenous to the Americas, sometimes referred to as Native
5 American, Indian, or First Nation; and

6 Whereas, Michigan's current borders include the twelve
7 federally recognized tribal nations with each having a unique and
8 independent government with different management and decision-
9 making structures which exercise sovereign authority; and

10 Whereas, Public Act 30 of 1974 established the fourth Friday
11 in September as Indian Day in Michigan; and

1 Whereas, The people of the state of Michigan benefit from an
2 understanding of the historical and contemporary lives of those who
3 came before us and currently live on these pleasant peninsulas; and

4 Whereas, Our shared history of the place we call Michigan
5 dates back approximately 14,000 years to the time before the last
6 glacier retreated from the land, and humans, including the
7 Anishinaabeg, populated the area. Our tribal partners pass along
8 the history of these first people; and

9 Whereas, In 2002, the State of Michigan and federally
10 recognized tribal nations entered into a government-to-government
11 accord, providing a framework for a government-to government
12 partnership that recognizes that the parties share a responsibility
13 to provide for and protect the health, safety, and welfare of their
14 common citizens. The 2002 accord sought to enhance and improve
15 communication between the parties, foster respect for their
16 sovereign status, and facilitate the resolution of potentially
17 contentious issues; and

18 Whereas, In 2019, the Governor signed Executive Directive
19 2019-17, to further strengthen relations between the State of
20 Michigan and the federally recognized tribal nations. The directive
21 reaffirmed the commitments made during the 2002 accord, reiterated
22 tribal sovereignty, and ordered each executive branch department
23 and agency to seek consultation on any actions or decisions that
24 they make that would impact any of the tribes; and

25 Whereas, Michigan is honored to have twelve federally
26 recognized tribes within its borders: the Bay Mills Chippewa
27 Community, the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa
28 Indians, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Keweenaw Bay Indian
29 Community, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

1 Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little
2 Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish
3 Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band
4 of Potawatomi Indians, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the
5 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
6 Chippewa Indians; and

7 Whereas, The state of Michigan and our tribal partners have
8 engaged in many fruitful and cooperative efforts to improve the
9 lives of our citizens and Michigan Indian Day is an annual
10 opportunity to honor those accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

11 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
12 this legislative body declare September 22, 2023, as Michigan
13 Indian Day in the state of Michigan. We recognize the significant
14 contributions of Indian nations, their citizens, and predecessors
15 to our great state's rich history and bright future; and be it
16 further

17 Resolved, That our common future will be improved with
18 thorough cooperation and communication between tribal and state
19 leadership.