

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 136

Rep. Rheingans 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

12 Whereas, The people of the state of Michigan benefit from an  
13 understanding of the historical and contemporary lives of those who

1 came before us and currently live on these pleasant peninsulas; and

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

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

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

23       Whereas, Michigan is honored to have twelve federally  
24 recognized tribes within its borders: the Bay Mills Chippewa  
25 Community, the Grand Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa and Chippewa  
26 Indians, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Keweenaw Bay Indian  
27 Community, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
28 Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little  
29 Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish

1 Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band  
2 of Potawatomi Indians, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the  
3 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
4 Chippewa Indians; and

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

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

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