

SR-162, As Adopted by Senate, September 18, 2014

Senator Kahn offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 162.

A resolution to express support for the state of Michigan officially recognizing September 19, 2014, as International Talk Like a Pirate Day (ITLPD).

Whereas, ITLPD began humbly in 1995 between two pirate enthusiasts named John Baur and Mark Summers as a way to express their individual passion for nautical plundering. As a Great Lakes state, the Michigan seas were subject to increased piracy during the 19th century as a result of increased commerce in port cities such as Chicago and Detroit. With thousands of unprotected ships braving the Great Lakes, pirates fled to the shores of Michigan to raid and even capture ships carrying cattle, grain, ore, copper, and timber. With a vibrant black market in Detroit as well as Chicago, the risky and dangerous work of raiding ships became lucrative careers for pirates. After selling their loot in port cities, pirates squandered their wealth quickly and moved on to their next plundering; and

Whereas, One such pirate was Roaring Dan Seavey. After failing to strike it rich during the gold rush, a very impoverished Roaring Dan acquired a sailboat in 1900 and began his career as a pirate on the Great Lakes. On perhaps the most infamous night of Roaring Dan's career, he climbed aboard a cargo ship, the *Nellie Johnson*, offered the crew alcohol until they were sufficiently intoxicated, threw them all overboard and sailed to Chicago to sell the ship's cargo. After being arrested and released on bail for stealing the *Nellie Johnson*, Roaring Dan would go through life insisting he won it in a poker game; and

Whereas, After accumulating great wealth, the Great Lakes pirates attracted the attention of the United States federal government, which eventually sent naval warships to hunt down pirates. Today, the U.S. Coast Guard protects our shores, but it is important to remember the treacherous history of piracy on and around the shores of the great state of Michigan. As ITLPD has blossomed into a worldwide phenomenon, it is time for the state of Michigan to formally acknowledge this holiday as a tribute to Michigan's rich and vibrant history of piracy on the Great Lakes and to celebrate our unique Michigan heritage every year on September 19; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of Michigan Attorney General, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.