

Substitute for House Resolution No. 255.

A resolution to declare February 28, 2018, as Senior Independence Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, National Senior Independence Month serves as an opportunity to remind seniors to evaluate their current living situation, recognize the strengths and weaknesses in their daily routine, and make adjustments for a better lifestyle; and

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 4 adults who are 65 years of age or older experience a fall and more than 2.8 million older adults are treated in emergency departments for fall-related injuries each year; and

Whereas, In order for seniors to ensure that their homes are a place in which they can live safely and independently, they should check that all rooms are well lit and make lighting replacements where needed. Grab bars and handrails near the shower, bathtub and toilet are recommended for installation in restrooms in seniors' homes. Seniors should also keep floors and walkways clear of unnecessary items in order to be able to navigate areas of their home without fear of falling; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging (AoA) promotes the well-being of older individuals by providing services and programs designed to help them live independently in their homes and communities; and

Whereas, For more than 35 years, the AoA has provided home-based and community-based services to millions of older adults through the programs funded under the Older Americans Act of 1965; and

Whereas, Services provided using AoA funds include, but are not limited to, transportation, adult day care, caregiver supports, and health promotion programs; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare February 28, 2018, as Senior Independence Day in the state of Michigan. We recognize the need to raise awareness of the services available and the steps seniors and their families can take to allow older Michigan citizens to remain in their homes and communities.