

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 145**

1 A resolution to declare October 9, 2023, as Indigenous
2 Peoples' Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The state of Michigan understands that in order to
4 help close the equity gap, government entities should change their
5 policies and practices to better reflect and uplift the
6 experiences, culture, history, and contributions of the people they
7 serve; and

8 Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes that Columbus Day
9 has been viewed by many as a celebration of our country's rich
10 immigrant and, in particular, Italian and Catholic heritage; and

11 Whereas, Recognizing the valuable contributions of immigrants
12 to our history is important, it should not come at the expense of

1 recognizing the experiences of the indigenous people of the
2 American continent; and

3 Whereas, Michigan honors the twelve federally recognized
4 tribes and many more tribally recognized tribes native to this land
5 and acknowledges the people, land, traditions, and customs stolen
6 by colonial systems through government practices of forced
7 separation, forced assimilation, and forced removal; and

8 Whereas, The idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first
9 proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United
10 Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination
11 Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

12 Whereas, In 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous Nations
13 at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian
14 Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus
15 Day into an opportunity to reveal historical truths about pre-
16 existing indigenous cultures that have survived a violent
17 colonization process and continue to exist and thrive in present
18 day America; and

19 Whereas, The United States endorsed the United Declaration on
20 the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on December 16, 2010, and Article
21 15 of that declaration states "Indigenous peoples have the right to
22 the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories,
23 and aspirations, which shall be appropriately reflected in
24 education and public information. States should take effective
25 measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous
26 peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination
27 and to promote tolerance, understanding, and good relations among
28 Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society"; and

29 Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes the presence of the

1 three major groups in our state today, the Three Fires Confederacy,
2 the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi, collectively known as the
3 Anishinaabe who have lived upon this land since time immemorial,
4 and values the progress our society has accomplished through Native
5 American thought and culture; and

6 Whereas, The establishment of Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be
7 used to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous peoples on
8 this land and to celebrate the thriving cultures and values that
9 the Anishinaabe of the Great Lakes and other indigenous peoples
10 contribute to society; and

11 Whereas, Many of our indigenous relatives and Tribal Nations
12 in Michigan have contributed much to our state's success, history,
13 economy, politics, and cultural heritage, and there are many things
14 to be proud of as an indigenous person in Michigan; and

15 Whereas, Even the name Michigan is derived from the
16 Anishinaabemowin word michigami meaning "great lake" and there are
17 many other examples of how the Anishinaabe of the Great Lakes have
18 helped shape who we are as the state of Michigan, and

19 Whereas, The states of Alaska and Michigan, the cities of
20 Seattle, Washington, Berkeley, California, Minneapolis, Minnesota,
21 and many more cities around the country including Traverse City,
22 Ann Arbor, East Lansing, and Alpena in Michigan have voted to
23 rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day to honor the
24 culture, heritage, and contributions of Native Americans; and

25 Whereas, On this second Monday of October, we should honor the
26 historic, cultural, and contemporary significance of indigenous
27 peoples and their ancestral lands that also became known as the
28 Americas and celebrate their contributions to communities
29 throughout Michigan, the United States, and all over the world;

1 now, therefore, be it

2 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
3 this legislative body declare October 9, 2023, as Indigenous
4 Peoples' Day in the state of Michigan. We recognize this day to
5 uplift our country's indigenous roots, history, and contributions;
6 and be it further

7 Resolved, That Indigenous Peoples' Day shall be used to
8 reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous people on this
9 land and to celebrate the thriving culture and value that Odawa,
10 Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and other indigenous peoples add to communities
11 throughout Michigan and our Great Lakes region.