

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 203**

Introduced by Mello, 5; Gloor, 35; Johnson, 23; Nordquist, 7; Schumacher, 22; Stinner, 48; Williams, 36.

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month was started in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan after he expanded National Hispanic Heritage Week, first signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968, into a full 30 days; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 through October 15 and covers the independence days of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Chile, Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador, and includes Columbus Day which is known as Día de la Raza (Day of the Race) or Día de Las Americas (Day of the Americas) in Latin-American countries; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration and commemoration of Latin-American history and culture honoring how Hispanic culture has dramatically impacted American society; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic population has not historically been a large segment of the American population, but has grown over the past two decades along with Hispanic contributions to American culture; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic community in Nebraska has made tremendously positive impacts in business, education, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic men and women play an integral role in American society, and it is vitally important that we honor and celebrate their contributions to our culture and to the State of Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature designates September 15 through October 15, 2015, as Hispanic Heritage Month in the State of Nebraska.

2. That during that time, Nebraskans are encouraged to come together to recognize, commemorate, and celebrate the Hispanic men and women of Nebraska,

past and present, who have worked tirelessly to overcome obstacles of language, culture, and tradition to positively impact American society and become an integral part of our local communities.

3. That Nebraskans are also encouraged to study Hispanic culture and history, recognize Hispanic contributions in their communities, and strive for appreciation and equality year-round in order to celebrate our past and brighten our future in the State of Nebraska.