

BY: Senator KENNEDY

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the
National Hockey League

WHEREAS, The great State of New York recognizes and appreciates the importance of sports as a leisure activity, as an essential aspect of our educational system, and as a profession, and applauds those who devote themselves to training, often for many years, developing their skills, honing their talents, and gaining mental acuity and a well-earned sense of self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, New York State recognizes, as well, the great pleasure sports bring to citizens all across the State as fans and spectators and the enthusiasm, camaraderie and community spirit they engender, along with a healthy competitive spirit; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the National Hockey League; and

WHEREAS, The National Hockey League (NHL) is a professional ice hockey league which is currently comprised of 30 clubs, 23 in the United States, and seven in Canada; the 31st team, the 24th in the United States, will begin to play in the fall of 2017; and

WHEREAS, Headquartered in Manhattan, New York, the NHL is considered to be the premier professional ice hockey league in the world, and one of the major professional sports leagues in the United States and Canada; the Stanley Cup, the oldest professional sports trophy in North America, is awarded annually to the league playoff champion at the end of each season; both the New York Rangers and the Islanders have each won four Stanley Cups; and

WHEREAS, The National Hockey League was established on November 26, 1917, in Montreal, Quebec after the suspension of operations of its predecessor organization, the National Hockey Association (NHA), which had been founded in 1909 in Renfrew, Ontario; and

WHEREAS, The National Hockey League (NHL) was organized with six original teams including the New York Rangers, which began playing in 1926, at Madison Square Garden in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Other New York teams included the Buffalo Sabres which began to compete at the War Memorial Auditorium in Buffalo, New York, in 1970, and the New York Islanders which entered the league in 1972, playing in Long Island's Nassau Coliseum; and

WHEREAS, Each team has relocated to a new arena since its inception; the Rangers moved to the new Madison Square Garden, the Islanders went to the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, and the Sabres moved to the KeyBank Center; and

WHEREAS, The New York professional hockey teams contribute a great deal to New York's economy; a 2007 study done by St. John Fisher College determined that the Buffalo Sabres bring in approximately \$65 million to the Buffalo economy every year, and according to the New York City Economic Development Corporation, every Rangers playoff game nets local businesses an extra \$5.8 million; and

WHEREAS, Since purchasing the Buffalo Sabres in 2011, Terry Pegula has been instrumental in building the HarborCenter, a multifaceted complex containing two hockey rinks that has allowed Buffalo to host the NHL Combine and the NHL Draft, bringing in millions of dollars to the local economy; and

WHEREAS, During the 2016-2017 season, more than 1.7 million sports enthusiasts attended an NHL hockey game in New York State; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to introduce the sport to more people, the first NHL Winter Classic was held in Orchard Park, New York, at Ralph Wilson Stadium on New Year's Day in 2008; four years later, the New York Rangers participated in the 2012 NHL Winter Classic in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, The past and present members of the New York teams in the NHL provide a legacy of commitment and excellence through their purposeful lives and achievements, bringing them distinction as well as serving as models of inspiration to all who would aspire to grow and succeed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the National Hockey League; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the National Hockey League.