

Senate Resolution No. 2125

BY: Senator GRIFFO

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 15 - October 15, 2026, as Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to set aside months which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 15 - October 15, 2026, as Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Hispanic Latino Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968, when Public Law 90-498 was approved by Congress, authorizing and requesting the President to issue an annual proclamation designating the week comprising September 15th and 16th as the National Hispanic Heritage Week; President Lyndon Johnson issued the first one, Presidential Declaration 3869; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, Congress passed Law 100-402 which amended Law 90-498 and created the Month of National Hispanic Heritage; between 1990 and 2023, President George H.W. Bush, President William Clinton, President George W. Bush, President Barack Obama and President Donald J. Trump have issued annual proclamations for National Hispanic Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Latino Heritage Month celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries including: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Hispanic Latino Heritage Month highlights all the Hispanic and Latino cultures found within the Americas, as well as the diversity and the positive contributions of their Hispanic/Latino brothers and sisters to their communities and congregations; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Office, National Humanities Endowment, National Art Gallery, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum joined in paying tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have profoundly shaped and enriched our country and our culture; and

WHEREAS, As of 2020, the Hispanic population in the United States was 62.5 million, the largest minority group in the country, and is projected to reach 111 million by 2060; and

WHEREAS, Mexicans, Salvadorans and Guatemalans are largely concentrated in western states, while Cubans, Colombians, Hondurans and Peruvians are largely concentrated in the South; the largest numbers of Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and Ecuadorians are in the Northeast; and

WHEREAS, The top states of the largest number of Hispanic populations are in California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia and North Carolina; in 2022, New York's Hispanic population reached 3,721,000 according to the United States Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Today, Latinos continue to advance communities throughout the country, including many other occupations as small business owners, veterans, teachers and public servants; artists; lawmakers; in organized labor, and in other capacities; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting to set aside this month to highlight and honor the history and heritage of the Hispanic Latino and to remember and pay tribute to the contributions they have made to our State and our Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 15 - October 15 2026, as Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.