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JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING IRISH HERITAGE

WHEREAS, millions of Irish people emigrated from Ireland in the 1800s to escape brutal poverty and starvation due to the Irish potato famine, and most of those people came to America to start new lives and to embrace and contribute to a new land; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Irish immigrants arrived in New England and many came to Maine, and the Irish have been and remain an important part of Maine's culture, history and society; and

WHEREAS, within a few years of their arrival in the United States and in Maine, these Irish immigrants became part of the American cultural landscape while preserving the best of their native culture, and they dedicated themselves to helping build this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, 4 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Irish-born and 9 signers were of Irish ancestry and 19 Presidents of the United States have proudly claimed Irish heritage, including George Washington, the father of our country; John Fitzgerald Kennedy; Ronald Reagan; and Barack H. Obama; and

WHEREAS, the over 33,000,000 Americans of Irish ancestry, like their forebears, continue to enrich all aspects of life in the United States, in science, education, art, agriculture, business, industry, literature, music, athletics, entertainment and military and government service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the valuable contribution to our State and to our Nation of all Irish-American citizens and we urge the citizens of the State to commend and celebrate the integrity and richness of the Irish culture.