
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 92

Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY METCALFE, BAKER, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BOYD, BUNT,
CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CREIGHTON, DALLY, DENLINGER, ELLIS,
FICHTER, FORCIER, HERSHEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, MARKOSEK,
PETRARCA, READSHAW, ROBERTS, ROHRER, SCAVELLO, E. Z. TAYLOR,
WILT AND YEWIC, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FEBRUARY 16, 2005

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation to support a
2 repeal of the Federal excise tax on telecommunications.

3 WHEREAS, The Federal excise tax on communications was enacted
4 in 1898 for the purpose of funding the Spanish-American War; and

5 WHEREAS, The tax was introduced as a temporary luxury tax;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Telephone service is a necessity for consumers of
8 all income levels; and

9 WHEREAS, The Federal excise tax is regressive, as low-income
10 Americans pay a higher percentage of their income for telephone
11 services than high-income Americans; and

12 WHEREAS, Telecommunications services are the infrastructure
13 upon which new technologies, including the Internet, depend; and

14 WHEREAS, The telecommunications excise tax discourages
15 expansion of the telephone infrastructure and new technologies;
16 and

1 WHEREAS, The Federal excise tax on telecommunications flows
2 into the General Fund instead of being earmarked for a specific
3 purpose; and

4 WHEREAS, Each House of Congress passed a repeal of the
5 Federal excise tax on telecommunications in 2000 which was
6 vetoed by President William Jefferson Clinton; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Senators and
9 Congressmen from Pennsylvania to support a repeal of the Federal
10 excise tax on telecommunications; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
12 the members of the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation.