

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 32

Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, CARN, FARGO, JACKSON, RYBAK, POTT, DALEY,
JOHNSON, FREEMAN, CIMINI, HALUSKA, McVERRY, BLAUM, MILLER,
ZWIKL, ARTY, PRATT, VROON, PISTELLA, MICOZZIE, LEVIN,
REINARD, GRUITZA, HASAY, MORRIS, MERRY, GALLAGHER, FISCHER,
MICHLOVIC, CESSAR, BATTISTO, SIRIANNI, COLAFELLA, GEIST,
MRKONIC, SALVATORE, STEIGHNER, REBER, BALDWIN, SAURMAN,
ALDERETTE, FLICK, PETRONE, E. Z. TAYLOR, LLOYD, BURD, CAWLEY,
TELEK, DeLUCA, B. SMITH, KOSINSKI, PERZEL, SHOWERS, GANNON,
KUKOVICH, CLYMER, WOGAN, FATTAH AND ITKIN, MARCH 1, 1983

SENATOR JUBELIRER, RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, IN SENATE,
AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 2, 1984

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 ~~Memorializing Congress to cease interest on and absolve a~~ <—
2 ~~percentage of the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund debt of the~~
3 ~~affected states.~~
4 MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO INITIATE AN <—
5 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE
6 THE PRESIDENT WITH THE AUTHORITY TO VETO INDIVIDUAL LINE
7 ITEMS IN APPROPRIATION BILLS.
8 ~~WHEREAS, The national economy and the economy of Pennsylvania~~ <—
9 ~~are suffering in the depths of a deep and long lasting~~
10 ~~recession; and~~
11 ~~WHEREAS, The national unemployment rate was nearly 11% at the~~
12 ~~end of 1982 and unemployment in Pennsylvania was nearly 14% at~~
13 ~~the beginning of 1983 (third highest of the major industrial~~
14 ~~states); and~~
15 ~~WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's unemployment fund deficit and debt to~~
16 ~~the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund is mounting; and~~

1 ~~WHEREAS, More than half of this debt and the interest thereto~~
2 ~~is structural and results from the problems in the national and~~
3 ~~state economies, causing more benefit dollars than normal to be~~
4 ~~paid, while less revenue than normal is collected; and~~

5 ~~WHEREAS, Deterioration in the national rate of unemployment~~
6 ~~is preceded by earlier and more severe increases in unemployment~~
7 ~~in Pennsylvania and similarly affected states; and~~

8 ~~WHEREAS, Improvement in employment and unemployment~~
9 ~~statistics, and overall economic recovery in Pennsylvania and~~
10 ~~the similarly affected states, will seriously lag behind any~~
11 ~~improvement in these factors nationally; therefore be it~~

12 ~~RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly~~
13 ~~of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of~~
14 ~~the United States to enact legislation which would cease the~~
15 ~~imposition of interest on the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund~~
16 ~~debt of the affected states and possessions of the United~~
17 ~~States; and be it further~~

18 ~~RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States be~~
19 ~~memorialized to enact legislation which would absolve at least~~
20 ~~50% of the Federal Unemployment Trust Fund debt of the affected~~
21 ~~states and possessions of the United States; and be it further~~

22 ~~RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to~~
23 ~~the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each~~
24 ~~member of Congress from Pennsylvania.~~

25 WHEREAS, A COMMONLY USED ELEMENT OF THE APPROPRIATIONS
26 PROCESS IN PENNSYLVANIA IS THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNOR TO VETO
27 INDIVIDUAL LINE ITEMS IN APPROPRIATION BILLS. THIS IMPORTANT
28 TOOL PERMITS A CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION
29 MEASURE CONTAINING SCORES OR HUNDREDS OF ITEMIZED APPROPRIATIONS
30 WITH EXCEPTION, INSTEAD OF REJECTING AN ENTIRE BILL BECAUSE OF

<—

1 ONE OR SEVERAL WASTEFUL AND EXTRAVAGANT SPENDING ITEMS; AND
2 WHEREAS, FORTY-THREE STATES PRESENTLY PERMIT THE GOVERNOR TO
3 EMPLOY THIS LINE ITEM VETO TECHNIQUE IN DETERMINING STATE
4 SPENDING. IN PENNSYLVANIA, AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE
5 COUNTRY, GOVERNORS OF BOTH PARTIES HAVE FOUND THIS TO BE A MOST
6 USEFUL AND NECESSARY MEANS OF MONITORING APPROPRIATIONS. THE
7 LINE ITEM VETO ABILITY IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR SYSTEM OF CHECKS
8 AND BALANCES, FOR, LIKE ANY VETOED BILL, A LINE ITEM VETO COULD
9 BE SUBJECT TO PROCEEDINGS TO OVERRIDE THE VETO; AND
10 WHEREAS, NOT PERMITTING A PRESIDENT TO EXERCISE THE
11 CONSTITUTIONAL POWER OF VETO OVER A SPECIFIC LINE ITEM IN AN
12 APPROPRIATION BILL CONTRIBUTES TO EXCESS SPENDING; AND
13 WHEREAS, IN PENNSYLVANIA, THIS ABILITY HAS PROVEN TO OPERATE
14 SMOOTHLY AND CONSISTENTLY WITH THE NOTION OF EXECUTIVE-
15 LEGISLATIVE BALANCE OF POWERS. CLEARLY, THE LINE ITEM VETO
16 AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO GOOD GOVERNMENT AND RESPONSIBLE
17 CONSIDERATION OF APPROPRIATION ITEMS; THEREFORE BE IT
18 RESOLVED (THE SENATE CONCURRING), THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE
19 GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY MEMORIALIZE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED
20 STATES TO INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
21 UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE THE PRESIDENT WITH THE AUTHORITY TO
22 VETO AN ITEM IN APPROPRIATION BILLS; AND BE IT FURTHER
23 RESOLVED, THAT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO
24 THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF EACH HOUSE OF CONGRESS AND TO EACH
25 MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM PENNSYLVANIA.