

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 254

Session of
1984

INTRODUCED BY RICHARDSON, LINTON, FATTAH, WAMBACH, FREEMAN,
WIGGINS, BARBER, D. R. WRIGHT, DEAL, CARN, TRUMAN, WILLIAMS,
OLIVER, McMONAGLE, DAWIDA, PRESTON, PETRONE, PISTELLA,
DeLUCA, WESTON, PERZEL, O'BRIEN, BURD AND MILLER, JUNE 28,
1984

ADOPTED, JUNE 28, 1984

A RESOLUTION

1 Calling for an immediate investigation of the crisis in the
2 staffing of welfare offices of the Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, It is the commitment of legislators to protect the
4 basic human rights and insure the provision of basic services to
5 the unemployed, the underemployed, the sick, the elderly, the
6 poor and minorities; and

7 WHEREAS, This commitment is not being and cannot be fulfilled
8 unless there is sufficient staffing to administer these
9 services; and

10 WHEREAS, There presently exists a crisis throughout the
11 Commonwealth in providing these basic services, which has been
12 brought about by a hiring freeze imposed by the Department of
13 Public Welfare. Approximately 700 positions Statewide remain
14 unfilled as a result of the failure of the Office of
15 Administration to lift this hiring freeze. By virtue of this
16 tardiness by the Office of Administration, county board of

1 assistance offices are flagrantly understaffed and the persons
2 attempting to provide these vital services are overwhelmed with
3 the case load; and

4 WHEREAS, It is questionable if the budget now under
5 consideration for the coming fiscal year will adequately provide
6 for the staffing necessary to efficiently carry out these
7 essential services, and any further reduction in funding would
8 be devastating; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives
10 appoint a special committee of House members, four from the
11 majority party and three from the minority party, to undertake
12 an immediate study and investigation of the understaffing of
13 welfare offices throughout the Commonwealth and the adverse
14 effect this is having on the lives of our citizens, and to
15 determine what measures can and should be undertaken to correct
16 this grave injustice; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the committee report back as soon as its study
18 and investigation are completed together with its findings and
19 recommendations.