

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 307

Session of
1988

INTRODUCED BY SWEET, JUNE 27, 1988

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JUNE 28, 1988

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing Congress to appropriate funds for the Low Income
2 Home Energy Assistance Block Grant for the fiscal year 1989
3 at a level of \$1.567 billion, which reflects the amount
4 included in HR 4783, passed by the United States House of
5 Representatives on June 15, 1988.

6 WHEREAS, A United States Senate Appropriations subcommittee
7 has proposed a level of funding at \$1.187 billion, which is \$380
8 million or 24% less than the level authorized in HR 4783 and
9 22.5% less than the 1988 funding level; and

10 WHEREAS, This reduction would mean a \$23 million loss of Low
11 Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds for the
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

13 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
14 estimates that 800,000 households in the State are
15 programmatically eligible to receive LIHEAP benefits; and

16 WHEREAS, Only 418,000 households, or just over half the
17 potentially eligible population, received LIHEAP cash benefits
18 during the 1987-1988 program year; and

19 WHEREAS, Low income citizens pay, on the average, 15% of

1 their income for energy, contrasted with 5% paid by the average
2 American family; and

3 WHEREAS, Any further reduction in LIHEAP funding will create
4 undue hardship for those it is designed to assist by reducing
5 the level of benefits or by reducing eligibility requirements
6 for Pennsylvania households from the present 150% of poverty to
7 a level closer to 110%; and

8 WHEREAS, The oil overcharge moneys presently being used to
9 supplement Federal LIHEAP dollars in Pennsylvania are
10 insufficient to meet the continuing needs of the program; and

11 WHEREAS, It is our obligation to address the needs of low
12 income households in our Commonwealth; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
14 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the
15 United States to appropriate funds for the Low Income Energy
16 Assistance Block Grant for the fiscal year 1989 at a level of
17 not less than \$1.567 billion, which reflects the amount
18 authorized in HR 4783, passed by the United States House of
19 Representatives on June 15, 1988; and be it further

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