
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 191 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY MERSKI, FREEMAN, MADDEN, KULIK, BOBACK, HARKINS,
JAMES, ROTHMAN, MILLARD, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS,
KINSEY, SANCHEZ, JONES, NEILSON, DELLOSO AND DeLUCA,
MARCH 31, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 31, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States and the President of
2 the United States to increase admission of Ukrainian refugees
3 in America and to direct humanitarian aid to Poland to assist
4 the millions of Ukrainian refugees abroad.

5 WHEREAS, As of March 15, 2022, more than 2.97 million
6 refugees have fled Ukraine since February 24 due to the Russian
7 invasion; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately 1.8 million Ukrainian refugees have
9 fled directly to Poland; and

10 WHEREAS, The number of Ukrainian refugees in Poland
11 approximately matches the total population of Warsaw, Poland's
12 capital and largest city; and

13 WHEREAS, Humanitarian services in major cities such as Krakow
14 and Warsaw are at capacity and overcrowded; and

15 WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of refugees are arriving in Poland
16 every day, making this the fastest-growing refugee crisis since
17 World War II; and

18 WHEREAS, Women and children are among those making the

1 journey into Poland, many waiting up to 24 hours to be admitted
2 into the country; and

3 WHEREAS, Countries bordering Ukraine have offered refugees
4 shelter at reception centers for refugees who do not have any
5 relatives to stay with; and

6 WHEREAS, The European Union has offered Ukrainian refugees
7 the right to live, work and receive benefits within any member-
8 country for up to three years without needing to obtain special
9 legal status; and

10 WHEREAS, Poland has requested more money from the European
11 Union to provide for the refugees currently located inside the
12 country; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States has signaled that Europe should be
14 the primary destination for Ukrainian refugees; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States has only admitted 514 Ukrainian
16 refugees since the beginning of the conflict; and

17 WHEREAS, Refugee resettlement in the United States was
18 accelerated following the military withdrawal from Afghanistan
19 through a process known as humanitarian parole; and

20 WHEREAS, The United States Government must do more to support
21 the people of Ukraine who have been forced to flee their home
22 country by welcoming more refugees into America and by providing
23 support and resources to Poland; and

24 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth have an obligation to
25 support Poland's noble efforts as the history and culture of
26 this Commonwealth has been greatly enriched by Polish
27 immigration; and

28 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has long been a destination for Polish
29 immigrants coming to the United States, as early as the 18th
30 century; and

1 WHEREAS, People from Poland represented the largest group of
2 immigrants into Pennsylvania until 1901; and

3 WHEREAS, Polish immigrants settled in regions of this
4 Commonwealth that were booming with heavy industrial sites such
5 as anthracite mines and steel mills; and

6 WHEREAS, These regions primarily included Allegheny, Luzerne,
7 and Northumberland Counties; and

8 WHEREAS, Polish immigrants dominated the steel, leather,
9 meatpacking, oil and shipping industries in Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, In honor of this Commonwealth's ties to Polish
11 heritage, several cities have sister cities located in Poland;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The sister city of Erie is Lublin, Poland, and the
14 sister city of Philadelphia is Toruń, Poland; and

15 WHEREAS, As thousands of Ukrainians continue to face
16 uncertainty and seek refuge in Poland each day, the help of the
17 United States Government has never been more critical; therefore
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Congress
20 of the United States and the President of the United States to
21 increase admission of Ukrainian refugees in America and to
22 direct humanitarian aid to Poland to assist the millions of
23 Ukrainian refugees abroad.