
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 62

Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY GILLETTE, PYLES, McCUE, SCHMITT, MORRIS,
RENNINGER, ROMANELLI, ZEARFOSS, A. K. HUTCHINSON, RICHARDSON,
SCHWEDER, DIETZ, TADDONIO, TOLL, ABRAHAM, KERNICK, COWELL,
BARBER, RUGGIERO AND VANN, FEBRUARY 26, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 3, 1975

In the House of Representatives, February 26, 1975

1 WHEREAS, The combined forces of uncontrolled inflation and
2 the rising cost of energy are crushing the American consumer in
3 an economic vise. That consumer is looking to a responsive and
4 concerned government to show awareness of his plight and to take
5 positive and deliberate action. This must be a primary concern
6 of every agency of State Government; and

7 WHEREAS, The act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.1053, No.286), known as
8 the "Public Utility Law," has become outdated during the course
9 of the past thirty-eight years. Its many original salutary
10 amendments have created so many inconsistencies and ambiguities
11 as to make its usefulness questionable in light of a fast
12 changing society and recent circumstances. A complete and in-
13 depth reevaluation of the law is needed in order to insure to
14 the consumers of this Commonwealth the best available
15 responsiveness by their Government; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives

1 shall appoint nine members, five from the Majority Party and
2 four from the Minority Party who shall constitute a special
3 committee to investigate and evaluate in depth the "Public
4 Utility Law" and to make recommendations to improve and
5 modernize said law; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the committee may hold public hearings, take
7 testimony, and make its study at such places as it deems
8 necessary within this Commonwealth. It may provide itself with a
9 competent staff drawing on such outside expertise as it deems
10 necessary. It may issue subpoenas under the hand and seal of its
11 chairman commanding any person to appear before it and answer
12 questions touching matters properly being inquired into by the
13 committee and to produce such books, papers, records and
14 documents as the committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may
15 be served upon any person and shall have the force and effect of
16 subpoenas issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Any
17 person who wilfully neglects or refuses to testify before the
18 committee or to produce any books, papers, records or documents,
19 shall be subject to the penalties provided by the laws of the
20 Commonwealth in such case. Each member of the committee shall
21 have power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses
22 appearing before the committee; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That within thirty calendar days after the
24 committee has made its report, the chairman of the committee
25 shall cause a record of all expenses incurred by the committee,
26 or the members thereof, which are payable at Commonwealth
27 expense, to be filed with the Speaker of the House and the
28 Speaker shall cause the same to be entered in the journal
29 thereof. No expenses incurred by the committee or any member
30 thereof shall be reimbursable by the Chief Clerk unless such

1 expense shall first have been included as an expense item in the
2 record heretofore required; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the committee shall make a complete report of
4 its findings and conclusions to the General Assembly within one
5 year.