
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 208 Session of
1991

INTRODUCED BY STAIRS, FEE, PETRARCA, FOX, HALUSKA, LESCOVITZ,
CARLSON, KOSINSKI, LANGTRY, ANGSTADT, MARKOSEK, JOHNSON,
HERMAN, VAN HORNE, BUNT, NAHILL, BROUJOS, SAURMAN, MAYERNIK,
ARMSTRONG, TRELLO, CAPPABIANCA, KENNEY, CIVERA, M. N. WRIGHT,
GERLACH, ULIANA, HERSHEY, GRUPPO, HESS, DENT, SERAFINI,
TOMLINSON, MELIO, BELARDI, BROWN, O'BRIEN AND STABACK,
OCTOBER 21, 1991

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, OCTOBER 21, 1991

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to adjust the
2 method used to compute the Social Security cost-of-living
3 allowance (COLA) increases to more accurately reflect the
4 rate of inflation for the elderly.

5 WHEREAS, Since Social Security was established, benefits were
6 first automatically increased through COLA clauses in 1974; and

7 WHEREAS, The Social Security Administration has used the
8 older of the two consumer prices indexes, the CPI-W or Index for
9 the Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1974 the CPI-W was the only such measure
11 available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

12 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Labor Statistics began publishing a
13 broader CPI-U or Index for All Urban Consumers in 1978; and

14 WHEREAS, The CPI-W represents only about 32% of the United
15 States population and specifically excludes retired persons; the
16 CPI-U represents about 80% of American households and includes

1 retirees; and

2 WHEREAS, Beneficiaries would have more confidence in the COLA
3 process if the CPI-U were used rather than the CPI-W; therefore
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
6 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the
7 United States to adjust the method used to compute the annual
8 Social Security COLA from the CPI-W to the CPI-U; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
11 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
12 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.