

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 261 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY BEBKO-JONES, CAPPABIANCA, SCRIMENTI, COY, ITKIN,
EVANS, SANTONI, READSHAW, WALKO, BELARDI, ROEBUCK, BISHOP,
RUDY, OLASZ, LAUGHLIN, JOSEPHS, TRELLO AND PISTELLA,
DECEMBER 12, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, DECEMBER 12, 1995

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to convene an Economic Summit for the
2 purpose of bringing together business, labor and government
3 representatives to work to assure long-term stability of
4 employment for Pennsylvania workers.

5 WHEREAS, Involuntary unemployment falls with crushing force
6 upon Pennsylvania workers who lose the financial ability to
7 support themselves and their families; and

8 WHEREAS, Economic insecurity due to unemployment is at any
9 time a serious menace to the health, safety and general welfare
10 of the people of this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, The problem of unemployment and its debilitating
12 effects has become acute for those Pennsylvania workers employed
13 in traditional manufacturing industries and for those workers
14 employed by corporations that must downsize their work force in
15 an effort to remain competitive in today's global marketplace;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The dislocation of more than 2,000 workers and the
18 loss of an additional 4,000 related jobs at the Philadelphia

1 Naval Shipyard, the recent layoff of 1,900 workers at General
2 Electric Company's Erie facility and the realignment of the
3 Letterkenny Army Depot and job loss at J. Schoeneman, Inc.,
4 within Franklin County, resulting in the imminent loss of over
5 3,000 jobs in the Cumberland Valley, have underscored the need
6 for the Commonwealth to redouble its efforts to retain existing
7 jobs; and

8 WHEREAS, These job losses will have a devastating effect on
9 the local economies of Philadelphia, Erie and South-central
10 Pennsylvania, touching the lives and businesses of thousands
11 more living and working in these areas and will also have both
12 short-term and long-term implications for each and every
13 community throughout this Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, The opportunity for gainful employment for the
15 people of this Commonwealth makes desirable, as a public
16 purpose, the promotion and development of an innovative, new
17 approach to bring business, labor and government leaders
18 together to encourage the retention of existing jobs; and

19 WHEREAS, Assuring long-term stability of employment for
20 Pennsylvania workers is a legitimate public purpose and this
21 Commonwealth cannot remain healthy, socially or economically,
22 when important segments of its willing, able and well-qualified
23 work force are unemployed or underemployed; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives fully recognize
25 the adverse economic and social consequences of industrial
26 dislocation, corporate downsizing and mass layoffs on
27 Pennsylvania workers, their families and the communities in
28 which they live and work; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the
30 Governor to convene an Economic Summit that will serve as a

1 catalyst to reduce the fragmentation of efforts and redouble the
2 resolve among business, labor and government to retain existing
3 jobs and assure long-term stability of employment for
4 Pennsylvania workers; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this Economic Summit include legislators,
6 business leaders, labor leaders, members of the Governor's
7 Response Team, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor
8 and Industry and the Governor; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this Economic Summit serve to establish a
10 meaningful level of understanding and diligent interaction that
11 will enable the Commonwealth to find meaningful solutions,
12 including new State policies, programs and incentives to assure
13 long-term stability of employment for Pennsylvania workers.