
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 288 Session of
1996

INTRODUCED BY WALKO, FEBRUARY 16, 1996

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, FEBRUARY 16, 1996

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to immediately raise the eligibility
2 criteria for the Low-Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) Crisis
3 Program and to report to the House of Representatives on
4 potential utility shutoffs.

5 WHEREAS, The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program is a
6 federally funded program to help low-income families pay their
7 heating bills; and

8 WHEREAS, When the eligibility for the program was set at 135%
9 of poverty level, maximum income of \$19,900 for a family of
10 four, the program reached fewer than one-half of the eligible
11 households in Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, LIHEAP serves Pennsylvania citizens with great
13 needs, including senior citizens who make less than \$8,000 a
14 year and the working poor; and

15 WHEREAS, Federal budget cuts have curtailed Federal spending
16 on this program from approximately \$100 million to approximately
17 \$60 million this year; and

18 WHEREAS, Because of these Federal budget cuts, the program is

1 being run this year with eligibility set at 110% of poverty
2 level, maximum income of \$8,217 for a single person, and with a
3 much shortened application period; and

4 WHEREAS, As a result of the unwillingness of the Commonwealth
5 to restore these budget cuts and the program changes made by the
6 administration, hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians have
7 been cut from the program this winter; and

8 WHEREAS, The cash LIHEAP program has already ended for the
9 year, and the crisis LIHEAP program is scheduled to end on March
10 15th; and

11 WHEREAS, When public utilities begin to terminate thousands
12 of Pennsylvanians from utility service on April 1st, LIHEAP
13 programs will have already ended; and

14 WHEREAS, Public charities across this Commonwealth report
15 that they will not have available funds on hand at that time to
16 prevent utility terminations; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Governor
18 to immediately raise the income criteria for the LIHEAP crisis
19 program to 135% of poverty level and to ensure that the LIHEAP
20 crisis program is publicized and in operation on weekends and
21 evenings for the remainder of this heating season; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request the
24 Governor to report to the House of Representatives by March 11,
25 1996, on the funds available for LIHEAP and the funds necessary
26 to run the program until April 15th or April 30th; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request the
29 Governor to report to the House of Representatives by March 11,
30 1996, on the number of Pennsylvanians who may have their utility

1 service shut off beginning on April 1st and possible State plans
2 to respond to these shutoffs; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request the
4 Governor to develop a comprehensive strategy with public input
5 for State funding for LIHEAP and to report to the House of
6 Representatives on this strategy by April 1, 1996, unless
7 Federal funding for LIHEAP has been restored to 1994-1995
8 funding levels by that time; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be respectfully
10 transmitted to the Governor.