

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 105 Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, LEDERER, READSHAW, CURRY, THOMAS, DeWEESE, MARKOSEK, CALTAGIRONE, LaGROTTA, VEON, WOJNAROSKI, WATERS, J. WILLIAMS, PHILLIPS, WASHINGTON, FAIRCHILD, ORIE, SATHER, DALLY, HARHAI, RUBLEY, HERMAN, ROBERTS, COSTA, DeLUCA, SURRA, GRUCELA, STABACK, PISTELLA, CAWLEY, SCRIMENTI, WANSACZ, HORSEY, COLAFELLA, SOLOBAY, BELFANTI, YUDICHAK, BELARDI, MELIO, SANTONI, SAMUELSON, CORRIGAN, WALKO, TIGUE, YOUNGBLOOD, TRELLO, SHANER, JOSEPHS, LUCYK, DIVEN, LAUGHLIN, FREEMAN, MANDERINO, ROONEY, TULLI, SAINATO, FRANKEL, BEBKO-JONES, STEELMAN, JAMES AND BISHOP, MARCH 19, 2001

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 19, 2001

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a study on the underlying causes and impact of rising  
3 natural gas prices.

4 WHEREAS, The spot price for natural gas has risen from  
5 approximately \$2 per thousand cubic feet in 1998 to over \$10 per  
6 thousand cubic feet in early 2001; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Energy,  
8 these prices exceed any historical or dollar-adjusted price in  
9 the last 20 years; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Energy,  
11 over 50% of households in the United States are heated with  
12 natural gas; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau,  
14 natural gas is the primary residential heating fuel in several

1 major areas of population in this Commonwealth, including  
2 Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Erie; and

3 WHEREAS, According to numerous reports by residential and  
4 small business ratepayers across this Commonwealth, monthly  
5 natural gas bills have gone up approximately 70% or more; and

6 WHEREAS, These natural gas price increases are placing a  
7 severe burden on senior citizens, families and businesses across  
8 this Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, Neighboring states have provided hundreds of  
10 millions of dollars of additional state and private resources to  
11 help their citizens in recent months; and

12 WHEREAS, The State government of the Commonwealth must  
13 respond to the growing energy crisis; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
15 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study on  
16 the underlying causes and impact of rising natural gas prices;  
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That its report include a review of natural gas  
19 production and capacity in this Commonwealth and sources of  
20 natural gas to natural gas distribution companies in this  
21 Commonwealth; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That its report include recommendations about what  
23 additional State assistance could be provided to senior citizens  
24 and other vulnerable populations; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
26 report its findings and recommendations to the House of  
27 Representatives no later than 90 days after the adoption of this  
28 resolution.