

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 395      Session of  
2005

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INTRODUCED BY ALLEN, JUNE 30, 2005

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR RELATIONS, JUNE 30, 2005

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1    Establishing the Minimum Wage Advisory Commission and providing  
2        for its powers and duties.

3        WHEREAS, The act of January 17, 1968 (P.L.11, No.5), known as  
4    The Minimum Wage Act of 1968, requires a minimum wage of \$5.15  
5    per hour be paid to workers of this Commonwealth; and

6        WHEREAS, Section 4(a.1) of The Minimum Wage Act of 1968 ties  
7    the Commonwealth's minimum wage to Federal minimum wage  
8    requirements if Federal requirements impose higher wage levels;  
9    and

10       WHEREAS, This minimum wage level has not been raised since  
11    September 1, 1997, when the national minimum wage was increased  
12    by Congress; and

13       WHEREAS, Fifteen other states and the District of Columbia  
14    have established minimum wage requirements above the minimum  
15    required by Federal law; and

16       WHEREAS, There is mounting pressure to raise the minimum  
17    wage; and

1       WHEREAS, There are various legislative proposals to increase  
2 the minimum wage which are under consideration by the General  
3 Assembly; and

4       WHEREAS, There are conflicting claims made by various  
5 interest groups about the consequences of a minimum wage  
6 increase; and

7       WHEREAS, The General Assembly considers the issue of a  
8 minimum wage an important public policy decision which directly  
9 affects the economy and working families of this Commonwealth  
10 and is determined that a decision to raise the minimum wage must  
11 be based on careful deliberation and consideration of facts;  
12 therefore be it

13       RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
14 establish the Minimum Wage Advisory Commission; and be it  
15 further

16       RESOLVED, That the commission consist of 11 members, who must  
17 be residents of this Commonwealth; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That the President pro tempore of the Senate, the  
19 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
20 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of  
21 Representatives each appoint two members to the commission; and  
22 be it further

23       RESOLVED, That the Governor shall appoint three members to  
24 the commission; and be it further

25       RESOLVED, That the members of the commission be appointed  
26 with 15 days from the date of adoption of this resolution; and  
27 be it further

28       RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
29 call the initial meeting of the commission within ten days of  
30 the appointment of the members, at which the members be directed

1 to elect from their membership a chairman; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That the commission may hold hearings, take  
3 testimony and make its investigations at such places as it deems  
4 necessary within this Commonwealth and that each member of the  
5 commission have the power to administer oaths and affirmations  
6 to witnesses appearing before the commission; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the members of the commission receive no  
8 compensation for their services but be allowed actual and  
9 necessary expenses incurred in their capacity with the  
10 commission; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the commission be assigned staff support by  
12 the Speaker of the House of Representatives and Minority Leader  
13 of the House of Representatives; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the commission prepare a report on the minimum  
15 wage; and be it further

16       RESOLVED, That the report analyze various proposals to  
17 increase the Commonwealth's minimum wage; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That the report identify findings of fact as to who  
19 receives minimum wage in this Commonwealth, who would be  
20 affected by different minimum wage proposals and the potential  
21 direct and indirect cost to employers; and be it further

22       RESOLVED, That the report review the effect that having a  
23 higher minimum wage than the Federal requirement has had on  
24 workers, families and employers in those jurisdictions which  
25 have implemented such increases; and be it further

26       RESOLVED, That the report make recommendations as to under  
27 what circumstances and by how much the Commonwealth's minimum  
28 wage should be increased; and be it further

29       RESOLVED, That the report present facts and recommendations  
30 which are agreed to by the majority of the members of the

1 commission but include dissenting opinions on any  
2 recommendations; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the report be submitted to the Governor, the  
4 Senate and the House of Representatives by October 1, 2005.