
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 627 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, THOMAS, BENNINGTON, BEYER, BIANCUCCI,
BISHOP, BLACKWELL, BOBACK, BRENNAN, BUXTON, CLYMER, COHEN,
DALLY, DeLUCA, DePASQUALE, EACHUS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD,
FRANKEL, GEIST, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARKINS, KOTIK, LEVDANSKY,
LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MANDERINO, MANN, MARKOSEK, McCALL,
McGEEHAN, McILHATTAN, R. MILLER, MUNDY, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN,
PALLONE, PARKER, PAYTON, PETRARCA, PRESTON, READSHAW,
REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, SHIMKUS, K. SMITH,
SURRA, WALKO, WANSACZ, PICKETT, HORNAMAN AND MOYER,
MARCH 10, 2008

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MARCH 10, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to budget and
2 appropriate certain funding for the Low Income Home Energy
3 Assistance Program.

4 WHEREAS, The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
5 (LIHEAP) was established by the Congress of the United States
6 under Title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of
7 1981 and was implemented in 1982; and

8 WHEREAS, LIHEAP is a vital lifeline to low-income families,
9 senior citizens and persons with disabilities in meeting their
10 residential heating and cooling needs; and

11 WHEREAS, Low-income families, 40% of whom are senior
12 citizens, and many working poor individuals in this Commonwealth
13 face a continuing energy crisis with energy burdens that exceed
14 15% of their household incomes, compared to 3.4% for all other

1 households; and

2 WHEREAS, The Federal funding for LIHEAP significantly eases
3 the home energy affordability crisis faced by millions of
4 Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush's budget proposal for
6 fiscal year 2009 would cut LIHEAP funding by \$570 million, which
7 is a 22% cut from fiscal year 2008 even before adjusting for
8 changes in energy prices; and

9 WHEREAS, Current LIHEAP funding allows it to service only
10 about 15% of the people who are eligible, and President Bush's
11 budget would cut this number even further; and

12 WHEREAS, More than one million low-income and elderly
13 individuals already receiving LIHEAP money would be cut from the
14 LIHEAP program to meet President Bush's budget; and

15 WHEREAS, Although there has been a 65% increase in home
16 energy prices since 2001, there is a 0% increase in this year's
17 LIHEAP budget relative to fiscal year 2001; and

18 WHEREAS, Many low-income individuals in this Commonwealth do
19 not have sufficient income to pay for the basic necessities of
20 life and are experiencing a crisis in paying home energy bills,
21 thereby contributing to a health and safety crisis which is a
22 national crisis; and

23 WHEREAS, The number of families on LIHEAP has decreased every
24 year since 2001, and the continued diminution of funding for
25 LIHEAP will threaten the continuation of the Commonwealth
26 program that is the foundation for providing a modest amount of
27 energy security for low-income families of this Commonwealth;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Maintaining or increasing LIHEAP funding should
30 entitle this Commonwealth to a proportionate share of the LIHEAP

1 funds and would enable more people facing severe weather and
2 decreased income to help meet their future needs for energy
3 assistance; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
5 Commonwealth memorialize the Congress to provide an
6 appropriation for LIHEAP in fiscal year 2009, and each fiscal
7 year thereafter, at a level adjusted for inflation which equals
8 or exceeds the fiscal year 1982 regular program funding level;
9 and be it 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.