
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1050 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, JONES,
DONATUCCI, GREEN AND BERNSTINE, OCTOBER 19, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 19, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the General Assembly not to accept a cost-of-living
2 adjustment during the next three years and when unemployment
3 in this Commonwealth is more than 10%.

4 WHEREAS, The novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) was declared a
5 global pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11,
6 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, There are now more than 3.8 million cases of COVID-
8 19 in the United States and over 141,000 deaths; and

9 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, there are more than 100,000
10 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 7,000 deaths; and

11 WHEREAS, As a result of the pandemic, the Commonwealth had a
12 \$3.2 billion shortfall in revenue during the 2019-2020 fiscal
13 year; and

14 WHEREAS, In May 2020, the Independent Fiscal Office estimated
15 that Pennsylvania will permanently lose \$5 billion in revenue
16 through June 2021; and

17 WHEREAS, The temporary closure of businesses to mitigate the
18 spread of COVID-19 caused the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania

1 to increase from 5.8% in March 2020 to 16.1% in April 2020; and

2 WHEREAS, The unemployment rate in Pennsylvania in June 2020
3 was 13.0%; and

4 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has held session throughout the
5 duration of the global pandemic to address the crisis and work
6 to protect Pennsylvanians; and

7 WHEREAS, The act of September 30, 1983 (P.L.160, No.39),
8 known as the Public Official Compensation Law, bases cost-of-
9 living adjustments for public officials in Pennsylvania to the
10 year-over-year change in the consumer price index published by
11 the United States Department of Labor; and

12 WHEREAS, Millions of hardworking Pennsylvanians continue to
13 struggle to pay their bills and afford basic needs amid the
14 global pandemic; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians deserve to know that their State
16 legislators understand the hardships they continue to face every
17 day; and

18 WHEREAS, Legislators have a responsibility to set an example
19 for leaders at all levels of government and in the private
20 sector to follow; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the General
22 Assembly not to accept a cost-of-living adjustment during the
23 next three years and when unemployment in this Commonwealth is
24 more than 10%; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representative pledge not to
26 accept a cost-of-living adjustment for the next three years; and
27 be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives pledge not to
29 accept a cost-of-living adjustment during any year in which
30 unemployment in this Commonwealth is more than 10%; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call upon the
3 Senate to make the same pledge not to accept a cost-of-living
4 adjustment for the next three years and when unemployment in
5 this Commonwealth is more than 10%.