

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 222 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY COOK, O'NEAL, RYAN, GILLEN, CAUSER, MALONEY, SILVIS, KAUFER, RADER, KAIL, JAMES, WARNER, MENTZER, SMITH, WENTLING, SANKEY, SCHNEE, SCHMITT, RAPP, ROAE, DAVANZO, ARMANINI, E. NELSON, KAUFFMAN, PICKETT, RIGBY, TOPPER, PENNYCUICK, B. MILLER, HELM, GREINER, MIHALEK, BOBACK AND MAJOR, JULY 18, 2022

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee and provide a report to the House of
3 Representatives on preventing and countering inflation and
4 supply chain challenges in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The high costs of energy and food are devastating
6 household budgets across this Commonwealth, including the
7 farmers who produce the food and the truckers who deliver it to
8 grocery store shelves; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians are experiencing empty shelves of
10 essential goods; and

11 WHEREAS, In May 2022, prices rose by 8.6% year-over-year,
12 increasing over the previous month's 8.3% year-over-year
13 increase; and

14 WHEREAS, Food prices in May 2022 were 10.1% greater than
15 prices in May 2021; and

16 WHEREAS, Energy prices went up 34.6% in May 2022, the eighth

1 month in a row above 25%; and

2 WHEREAS, Retail prices for gasoline have doubled since
3 January 2021; and

4 WHEREAS, Energy, tax and regulatory policies play a role in
5 driving up food, gas and electric prices; and

6 WHEREAS, Government policies that disincentivize work and
7 regulations that discourage energy development, increase costs
8 to consumers and hinder the supply chain should be explored for
9 their impact and possible revision or repeal; and

10 WHEREAS, There are 3.2 million fewer people in the labor
11 force today than before the COVID-19 pandemic; and

12 WHEREAS, Fifty-one percent of employers are reporting job
13 openings they cannot fill; and

14 WHEREAS, Shortages of skilled and unskilled labor in
15 manufacturing and distribution continue to impact output and
16 capacity; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
18 State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee
19 and provide a report to the House of Representatives on
20 preventing and countering inflation and supply chain challenges
21 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission appoint
23 members of the advisory committee consisting of:

24 (1) a representative from a Statewide agriculture
25 organization;

26 (2) a representative from a Statewide trucking
27 organization;

28 (3) a representative from a Statewide manufacturing
29 organization;

30 (4) a representative from a Statewide small business

1 organization;

2 (5) a representative from a Statewide food merchants
3 association;

4 (6) a representative from a Statewide motor fuel or
5 petroleum association;

6 (7) a representative from a Statewide energy producer
7 association;

8 (8) a representative from a Statewide natural gas
9 association; ~~and~~ <--

10 (9) a representative from a Statewide career and
11 technical education association; ~~and~~ <--

12 (10) a representative from a ~~statewide~~ STATEWIDE
13 workforce development association; ~~and~~ <--

14 (11) a representative from Pennsylvania's maritime
15 shipping industry; AND <--

16 (12) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A NONPUBLIC LABOR UNION;

17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
19 with the advisory committee, conduct a comprehensive review and
20 analysis of laws, regulations, policies and procedures of this
21 Commonwealth and other states regarding best policies and
22 practices for preventing and countering inflation and supply
23 chain challenges; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the review and analysis consist of the
25 following:

26 (1) supply chain challenges and recommendations for
27 regulatory relief or repeal to alleviate supply chain
28 constraints;

29 (2) cost-drivers of consumer goods, fuel, energy and
30 essential items, such as food and energy, and recommendations

1 for regulatory relief or repeal for bringing costs down;

2 (3) workforce challenges impacting the supply chain and
3 recommendations to meet workforce demands;

4 (4) recommendations to increase the supply and improve
5 the delivery of this Commonwealth's natural energy resources
6 to consumers; and

7 (5) any other regulatory or policy changes recommended
8 by the advisory committee relating to preventing and
9 countering inflation and supply chain challenges;

10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee meet a minimum of four
12 times; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
14 report of the advisory committee's findings and recommendations
15 to the House of Representatives no later than ~~six~~ NINE months <--
16 from the adoption of this resolution.