
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 869 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, GALLOWAY, RAVENSTAHL, DELLOSO, A. DAVIS,
LEE, HILL-EVANS, SCHWEYER, KORTZ, SCHLOSSBERG, DeLUCA, ROZZI,
CIRESI, READSHAW AND SANCHEZ, MAY 12, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, MAY 12, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to suspend all
2 utility rate hikes through the end of 2020.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is navigating uncharted territory as a
4 result of the global pandemic that plagues our Commonwealth and
5 this country; and

6 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, record unemployment rates have
7 resulted in the distribution of more than \$3.6 billion in
8 unemployment benefits through April 30, 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, The Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis is forecasting
10 that the unemployment rate in this nation could rise to 30%
11 during this pandemic; and

12 WHEREAS, The national unemployment rate was 25% during the
13 Great Depression; and

14 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has more than 1.7 million unemployed
15 workers and that number currently exceeds 22 million unemployed
16 workers nationally; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the United States Small Business

1 Administration Office of Advocacy, Pennsylvania is home to
2 nearly 1.1 million small businesses which employ more than 2.5
3 million workers; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Small Business Administration
5 reported in 2016 that small business workers account for 46.6%
6 of the private sector workforce; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to Federal small business loans and
8 payroll protection loans, Pennsylvania has given more than \$61
9 million in small business loans; and

10 WHEREAS, This assistance constitutes only a tiny amount of
11 what is needed to help small businesses recover in Pennsylvania;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, During this crisis, Pennsylvania families and
14 businesses are struggling and witnessing economic devastation;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Various economic and safety measures to minimize the
17 impact of the pandemic have been implemented; and

18 WHEREAS, During recovery from this crisis, Pennsylvania must
19 undertake initiatives to assist unemployed and stressed
20 residents and our small businesses and provide them a chance to
21 outlast this pandemic; and

22 WHEREAS, Some utility companies are requesting astonishing
23 rate increases, as much as 24%, while families are struggling to
24 stay in their homes, and small businesses, nonprofit
25 organizations and educational institutions are fighting to carry
26 on through the current challenges; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives, recognizing the
28 proclamation of a pandemic emergency, urge the Pennsylvania
29 Public Utility Commission to suspend all utility rate hikes
30 through the end of 2020; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives, mindful that
2 many utility companies have had successive annual rate
3 increases, urge the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to
4 freeze all requests for utility rate hikes through 2020.