

Senator George offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 13.

A resolution to urge the Governor to work with the Civil Service Commission to require that state employees either work on President's Day or take the day off as an unpaid holiday to reflect the state's dire financial challenges.

Whereas, Michigan's economic conditions are well documented. Our longstanding status as the state with some of the highest unemployment rates from month to month and the several years we have lagged behind the rest of the country in a host of key economic measures make it clear that significant changes must be made; and

Whereas, As thousands of Michigan families cope with joblessness, the fear of unemployment, and grave uncertainty in their finances, it is important for the public sector to make the same kinds of sacrifices many in the private sector have been making. It is an incongruous situation that 50,000 state employees enjoy paid holidays for dates when most private workers report for work the same as always; and

Whereas, As Michigan searches for new ways to revive our economy and improve the state's outlook, it is most appropriate to revisit our current practices. Assumptions and policies that may have worked well in the past, when Michigan was in a far stronger situation economically, are not so applicable today. Setting a more realistic tone by reevaluating the benefits enjoyed by state employees can send a significant message and help Michigan in both practical and symbolic ways; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Governor to work with the Civil Service Commission to require that state employees either work on President's Day or take the day off as an unpaid holiday to reflect the state's dire financial challenges; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the Governor.