
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 861 Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, LYNCH, RUDY, JADLOWIEC, LLOYD AND HESS,
FEBRUARY 14, 1995

SENATOR BRIGHTBILL, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, IN
SENATE, AS AMENDED, APRIL 25, 1995

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 17, 1929 (P.L.1798, No.591), entitled
2 "An act providing a fixed charge, payable by the
3 Commonwealth, on lands acquired by the State and the Federal
4 Government for forest reserves, or for the purpose of
5 preserving and perpetuating a portion of the original forests
6 of Pennsylvania, and preserving and maintaining the same as
7 public places and parks; and the distribution of the same for
8 county, school, township, and road purposes in the counties,
9 school districts, and townships where such forests are
10 located; and making an appropriation," increasing the amount
11 paid by the Commonwealth.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of May 17, 1929 (P.L.1798,
15 No.591), referred to as the Forest Reserves Municipal Financial
16 Relief Law, amended February 24, 1984 (P.L.101, No.20), is
17 amended to read:

18 Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That (a) from and after the
19 passage of this act, all lands heretofore or hereafter acquired
20 by the Commonwealth, or by the Government of the United States,
21 for forest reserves or for the purpose of preserving and

1 perpetuating any portion of the original forests of Pennsylvania
2 and preserving and maintaining the same as public places and
3 parks, and which, by existing laws, are now exempt from
4 taxation, and all lands and property heretofore or hereafter
5 acquired for the purpose of conservation of water, or to prevent
6 flood conditions, upon which a tax is imposed by existing laws
7 payable by the Commonwealth, shall hereafter be subject to an
8 annual charge of [twenty] ~~forty~~ THIRTY-THREE cents per acre, for <—
9 the benefit of the county in which said lands are located,
10 [twenty] ~~forty~~ THIRTY-THREE cents per acre for the benefit of <—
11 the schools in the respective school districts in which such
12 lands are located, and [twenty] ~~forty~~ THIRTY-THREE cents per <—
13 acre for the benefit of the township where such lands are
14 located, which charge shall be payable by the Commonwealth. (b)
15 Except as hereinafter provided, the annual charge payable by the
16 Commonwealth on land acquired by the Government of the United
17 States for forest reserves is to continue only until the
18 receipts of money by treasurers and township supervisors of the
19 said counties and school districts and townships in which
20 national forest reserves are located, provided for in act of
21 April twenty-seventh, one thousand nine hundred twenty-five,
22 Pamphlet Laws, three hundred twenty-four, shall equal or exceed
23 the amount paid by the Commonwealth in lieu of taxes. This
24 subsection shall not apply to the annual charge per acre for the
25 benefit of the county in which the land acquired by the
26 Government of the United States for forest reserves is located
27 for the years one thousand nine hundred fifty-three, one
28 thousand nine hundred fifty-four, one thousand nine hundred
29 fifty-five, one thousand nine hundred fifty-six, and this
30 subsection shall not apply to two and one-half cents of the

1 annual charge per acre for the benefit of the county in which
2 the land acquired by the Government of the United States for
3 forest reserves is located for any year thereafter. The charges
4 for the benefit of the county for these years shall be paid by
5 the Commonwealth. All charges payable by the Commonwealth under
6 the provisions of this act shall be paid on or before the first
7 day of September of each year.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect ~~July 1, 1995~~ JULY 1, <—
9 1996.