
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 959 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY LONGIETTI, HARKINS, PASHINSKI, KOTIK, MILLARD,
SAINATO, McNEILL, SCHWEYER, SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS, D. COSTA,
FLYNN, COHEN, GOODMAN, MURT AND GIBBONS, APRIL 10, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, APRIL 10, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), entitled "An
2 act relating to tax reform and State taxation by codifying
3 and enumerating certain subjects of taxation and imposing
4 taxes thereon; providing procedures for the payment,
5 collection, administration and enforcement thereof; providing
6 for tax credits in certain cases; conferring powers and
7 imposing duties upon the Department of Revenue, certain
8 employers, fiduciaries, individuals, persons, corporations
9 and other entities; prescribing crimes, offenses and
10 penalties," in city revitalization and improvement zones,
11 further providing for the definitions of "city," "contracting
12 authority" and "pilot zone" and for establishment of
13 contracting authority; providing for number of authorized
14 zones; and further providing for approval.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. The definitions of "city," "contracting
18 authority" and "pilot zone" in section 1802-C of the act of
19 March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of
20 1971, amended or added July 9, 2013 (P.L.270, No.52) and October
21 31, 2014 (P.L.2929, No.194), are amended to read:

22 Section 1802-C. Definitions.

23 The following words and phrases when used in this article

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 * * *

4 "City." A city of the second class A or third class [with a
5 population of at least 30,000 based on the most recent Federal
6 decennial census. The term shall not include a city that has had
7 a receiver appointed under Chapter 7 of the act of July 10, 1987
8 (P.L.246, No.47), known as the Municipalities Financial Recovery
9 Act]. The term includes a city that is a distressed city under
10 the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246, No.47), known as the
11 Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, and a city that has had a
12 receiver appointed under Chapter 7 of the Municipalities
13 Financial Recovery Act.

14 * * *

15 "Contracting authority." An authority established under 53
16 Pa.C.S. Ch. 56 (relating to municipal authorities) by a city,
17 borough, township or [home rule] county for the purpose of:

- 18 (1) designating zones; and
19 (2) engaging in the construction, including related site
20 preparation and infrastructure, reconstruction or renovation
21 of facilities.

22 * * *

23 "Pilot zone." An area of not more than 130 acres designated
24 by the contracting authority following application and approval
25 by the Department of Community and Economic Development, the
26 office and the department which will provide economic
27 development and job creation within a township or borough, with
28 a population of at least [7,000] 2,000 based on the most recent
29 Federal decennial census.

30 * * *

1 Section 2. Section 1803-C of the act, amended October 31,
2 2014 (P.L.2929, No.194), is amended to read:

3 Section 1803-C. Establishment of contracting authority.

4 (a) Authorization.--Except as set forth in subsection (b), a
5 city, borough or township may establish a contracting authority
6 to designate a zone under this article.

7 (b) Distressed cities.--A city that is a distressed city
8 under the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246, No.47), known as the
9 Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, and is located in a
10 county of the second class A that is a home rule county may not
11 establish a contracting authority under this article.

12 (c) Counties.--[The home rule county] A county of the second
13 class A that is a home rule county and where a distressed city
14 under the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act is located may
15 establish a contracting authority to designate a zone under this
16 article within the distressed city.

17 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
18 Section 1803.1-C. Number of authorized zones.

19 The department shall authorize 15 zones as follows:

20 (1) four in cities with populations above 60,000 based
21 on the most recent Federal decennial census;

22 (2) four in cities with populations above 20,000, but
23 not more than 60,000, based on the most recent Federal
24 decennial census;

25 (3) four in cities with populations up to 20,000 based
26 on the most recent Federal decennial census; and

27 (4) three additional cities regardless of population
28 category if the city otherwise meets the requirements of this
29 article.

30 Section 4. Section 1804-C(c) of the act, added July 9, 2013

1 (P.L.270, No.52), is amended to read:

2 Section 1804-C. Approval.

3 * * *

4 (c) Approval schedule.--The Department of Community and
5 Economic Development shall develop a schedule for the approval
6 of applications under this section as follows:

7 (1) Following the effective date of this paragraph,
8 applications for [two] 15 initial zones may be approved.
9 Priority for approval shall be given to applications
10 submitted on behalf of a city that is a distressed city under
11 the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246, No.47), known as the
12 Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, or a city that has had
13 a receiver appointed under Chapter 7 of the Municipalities
14 Financial Recovery Act.

15 (2) Beginning in 2016, applications for two additional
16 zones may be approved each calendar year[.] regardless of
17 population. Priority for approval shall be given to
18 applications submitted on behalf of a city that is a
19 distressed city under the Municipalities Financial Recovery
20 Act or a city that has had a receiver appointed under Chapter
21 7 of the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act.

22 (3) Following the effective date of this paragraph, the
23 Department of Community and Economic Development, the office
24 and the department, may approve [one pilot zone] not more
25 than five pilot zones.

26 (4) A city may not be approved for more than one zone.
27 A township or borough may not be approved for more than one
28 pilot zone. A city that established a neighborhood
29 improvement zone under Article XIX-B shall be eligible to
30 apply for or be approved for a zone under this article.

1 * * *

2 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.