

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 357

Session of
1985

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, FISCHER, TRELLO, IRVIS, MANDERINO,
WAMBACH, OLIVER, LESCOVITZ, CLARK, LEVDANSKY, FEE, WOZNIAK,
MICHLOVIC, MRKONIC, VAN HORNE, PRATT, PETRARCA, COWELL,
STABACK, HALUSKA, BELFANTI, RYBAK, MORRIS, STEWART, DALEY,
ITKIN, DEAL, SWEET, STEIGHNER, CESSAR, BATTISTO, STUBAN,
DeWEESE, McCALL, TIGUE, MERRY, TELEK, DAWIDA, JAROLIN,
LETTERMAN, GEORGE, BLAUM, McHALE, BELARDI, CAWLEY,
DOMBROWSKI, BURD, VEON, KASUNIC, COLAFELLA AND JOSEPHS,
FEBRUARY 13, 1985

AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 8, 1985

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,
17 and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the
18 number and compensation of the deputies and all other
19 assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and
20 commissions shall be determine," creating the Bureau for
21 Economically Disadvantaged Municipalities in the Department
22 of Community Affairs; and providing for its powers and
23 duties.

24 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1 hereby enacts as follows:

2 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known
3 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding a
4 section to read:

5 Section 2501-C.1. Bureau for Economically Disadvantaged
6 Municipalities.--There shall be a Bureau for Economically
7 Disadvantaged Municipalities in the Department of Community
8 Affairs, the director of which shall be appointed by the
9 Secretary of Community Affairs with the approval of the
10 Governor. The powers and duties of the Bureau for Economically
11 Disadvantaged Municipalities shall be as follows:

12 (a) The bureau shall, on or before March 30 of each year,
13 identify those municipalities in the Commonwealth which are
14 experiencing difficulty in providing government services
15 necessary for the health and welfare of the populace of the
16 municipality and for the social and economic viability of the
17 municipality due to an inability to raise sufficient local tax
18 revenues because of unemployment, plant closings and property
19 devaluations within the municipality. The following criteria
20 shall be used by the bureau in identifying these municipalities:

21 (1) Adjusted mill rate.--The real property tax rate in the
22 municipality multiplied by the assessment ratio percentage.

23 (2) Act 511 taxes.--The ~~annual rate~~ PERCENTAGE of increase <—
24 or decrease in the total tax income derived by the municipality
25 from taxes authorized by the act of December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257,
26 No.511), known as "The Local Tax Enabling Act" ACT," DURING THE <—
27 PRIOR FIVE YEARS.

28 (3) Debt market value.--The total net debt of the
29 municipality divided by the market value of real property within
30 the municipality.

1 (4) Market value per capita.--The market value of real
2 property within the municipality divided by the population of
3 the municipality.

4 (5) Change in market value per capita.--The annual rate <—
5 PERCENTAGE of increase or decrease in the market value per <—
6 capita DURING THE PRIOR FIVE YEARS. <—

7 ~~(6) Personal income. Per capita income of persons within~~ <—
8 ~~the municipality.~~

9 ~~(7)~~ (6) Poverty.--The number of persons within the <—
10 municipality below the Federal poverty line as a percentage of
11 the population of the municipality.

12 ~~(8)~~ (7) Tax effort.--Total taxes collected by the <—
13 municipality as a percentage of the total revenue of the
14 municipality.

15 ~~(9) Earned income tax. Earned income tax collected by the~~ <—
16 ~~municipality as a percentage of the total revenue of the~~
17 ~~municipality.~~

18 (B) THE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE <—
19 CRITERIA IN SUBSECTION (A) TO MUNICIPALITIES SHALL BE UTILIZED
20 AS FOLLOWS TO DETERMINE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED
21 MUNICIPALITIES:

22 (1) RANKINGS.--ALL MUNICIPALITIES SHALL BE RANKED
23 NUMERICALLY FROM THE LEVEL OF GREATEST DISTRESS TO THE LEVEL OF
24 LEAST DISTRESS FOR EACH CRITERIA.

25 (2) TIES IN RANKINGS.--MUNICIPALITIES WITH IDENTICAL
26 NUMERICAL LEVELS FOR ANY ONE OF THE CRITERIA SHALL ALL BE RANKED
27 AT THE LOWEST NUMERICAL LEVEL ACHIEVED BY ANY ONE OF THE TIED
28 MUNICIPALITIES.

29 (3) CLASSIFICATION.--THE RANKINGS IN EACH OF THE SEVEN
30 CRITERIA SHALL BE ADDED AND THE MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE LOWEST

TEN PER CENTUM (10%) FOR SCORES SHALL BE CLASSIFIED AS
ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED MUNICIPALITIES.

~~(b)~~ (C) The bureau shall be responsible for compiling the
data necessary for identifying those economically disadvantaged
municipalities as identified in subsection (a), and shall in all
cases utilize the most recent reliable date available to the
bureau.

~~(c)~~ (D) The bureau shall provide direct technical and expert
assistance to those economically disadvantaged municipalities as
identified in subsection (a) to enable these municipalities to
engage in efforts to promote economic growth and development and
to obtain all State and Federal aid available to the
municipalities to achieve this goal.

(E) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE TERM "MUNICIPALITY"
SHALL MEAN A CITY, BOROUGH, INCORPORATED TOWN, TOWNSHIP OR ANY
HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY WHICH IS NOT A COUNTY.

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