
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 945

Session of
1987

INTRODUCED BY PETERSON, HELFRICK, MADIGAN, STAPLETON, SHAFFER,
WILT, CORMAN, LEMMOND, JUBELIRER, STEWART, KELLEY, MOORE,
SHUMAKER, RHOADES, WENGER, SALVATORE, LOEPER, LINCOLN,
STAUFFER, FISHER, ARMSTRONG, GREENWOOD, HESS, AFFLERBACH,
REIBMAN AND BRIGHTBILL, JUNE 24, 1987

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JUNE 24, 1987

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Hardwoods Council; conferring powers and duties
2 upon the council; and making an appropriation.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Hardwoods
7 Council Act.

8 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) The hardwood forest industry is an important segment
11 of the continuing economic revitalization of this
12 Commonwealth.

13 (2) Fifty-five percent of the land in this Commonwealth
14 is classified as commercial forest land. This represents
15 approximately 16,000,000 acres of timber resources, which are
16 capable of providing essential raw materials for an

1 economically sound and expanding forest industry.

2 (3) This Commonwealth is uniquely endowed with an excess
3 of timber resources. This heritage, utilizing proper multiuse
4 management by professional foresters and private interests,
5 will provide a vital source of raw materials and jobs for
6 present and future generations. However, the Commonwealth has
7 not made the most of this unique opportunity. Most of the
8 marketable hardwoods are being shipped out of this
9 Commonwealth and out of the country, where they will be
10 transformed into value-added hardwood products, instead of
11 being processed in this Commonwealth.

12 (4) The Commonwealth, in an effort to promote economic
13 development, should take the initiative by encouraging the
14 hardwood industry to further develop the secondary
15 manufacturing process of hardwood. This will make full use of
16 the valuable and renewable timber resource and create vital
17 jobs.

18 (5) It is the policy of the Commonwealth to establish
19 the council for the purpose of expanding and promoting the
20 development and efficient usage of hardwood timber resources
21 located in this Commonwealth.

22 Section 3. Definitions.

23 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
24 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
25 context clearly indicates otherwise:

26 "Council." The Hardwoods Council of the Commonwealth
27 established under section 4.

28 "Department." The Department of Commerce of the
29 Commonwealth.

30 Section 4. Council.

1 (a) Establishment.--The Hardwoods Council is established
2 within the department. The council shall be composed of 21
3 members:

4 (1) Four ex officio members:

5 (i) The Secretary of Agriculture.

6 (ii) The Secretary of Commerce.

7 (iii) The Secretary of Environmental Resources.

8 (iv) The State Forester.

9 (2) Four legislative members:

10 (i) Two senators appointed by the President pro
11 tempore of the Senate, one from the majority party and
12 one from the minority party.

13 (ii) Two representatives appointed by the Speaker of
14 the House of Representatives, one from the majority party
15 and one from the minority party.

16 (3) Thirteen public members appointed by the Governor:

17 (i) One representative of an agricultural college
18 from a State-related university.

19 (ii) One representative of the Forest Service of the
20 Federal Department of Agriculture.

21 (iii) One representative of furniture manufacturers.

22 (iv) One representative of hardwood exporters.

23 (v) Two representatives of hardwood processors.

24 (vi) Two representatives of nonprofit corporations
25 which have the purpose to promote and enhance the
26 hardwood industry in this Commonwealth and which are
27 approved by the council.

28 (vii) One representative of the Pennsylvania Chamber
29 of Business and Industry.

30 (viii) One representative of the Pennsylvania

Forestry Association.

(ix) One representative of the Pennsylvania Hardwood Lumber Manufacturing Association.

(x) Two representatives of pulp and paper manufacturers.

(b) Terms.--

(1) Ex officio members under subsection (a)(1) shall serve as long as they are in office.

(2) Legislative members under subsection (a)(2) shall serve terms of two years.

(3) Public members under subsection (a)(3) shall serve the following terms:

(i) Public members under subsection (a)(3)(vi) through (ix) shall serve terms of two years.

(ii) Public members under subsection (a)(3)(iii) through (v) and (x) shall serve terms of three years.

(iii) Public members under subsection (a)(3)(i) and (ii) shall serve terms of four years.

(c) Designees.--Ex officio members under subsection (a)(1) and legislative members under subsection (a)(2) may appoint designees to serve on the council.

(d) Vacancies.--Vacancies in office shall be filled by the appointing authority who made the original appointment.

(e) Officers.--The council shall elect one of its members to be chairperson and may elect other officers as it deems necessary.

(f) Meetings.--The council shall meet quarterly and shall hold special meetings at the call of the chairperson. Eleven members constitute a quorum.

(g) Expenses.--Members of the council shall serve without

1 compensation. They shall be entitled to reimbursement for
2 necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of
3 their duties.

4 Section 5. Functions and objectives.

5 The council shall serve as the coordinating body to the
6 General Assembly and the administrative agencies of the
7 Commonwealth with regard to the development, expansion and
8 promotion of the hardwood industry in this Commonwealth. The
9 council shall seek to meet the following objectives:

10 (1) To expand the hardwood industrial job base in this
11 Commonwealth. This paragraph includes expansion of existing
12 hardwood jobs and recruitment of complementary new hardwood
13 manufacturing process companies. The objective stated in this
14 paragraph shall lead to retention, expansion and creation of
15 jobs. The objective stated in this paragraph shall utilize an
16 increase in capital investments in the hardwood industry in
17 this Commonwealth.

18 (2) To promote better efficiencies of the existing
19 hardwood industries. This paragraph includes technology
20 transfer, applied research and investment in equipment and
21 technology necessary to enhance the hardwood industry.

22 (3) To promote basic research in wood characteristics
23 and product potential, current wood product promotion, new
24 product development and marketing and long-range research and
25 marketing strategies. This paragraph is comprehensive; it is
26 aimed at all species and grades of woods, including those
27 species that are underutilized.

28 (4) To provide institutional support for the hardwood
29 industry of this Commonwealth by insuring effective
30 cooperation and communication among governmental agencies,

1 the academic and research community and the hardwood
2 industry. This paragraph includes international activity.

3 (5) To establish information transfer through a common
4 data base and knowledgeable personnel to further develop and
5 enhance the hardwood industry.

6 (6) To encourage long-range hardwood development in ways
7 which are sustainable and environmentally sound. This
8 paragraph includes educational programs providing knowledge
9 in the area of forest management and marketing methods and
10 effective planning and development to preserve timber, a
11 renewable resource, for multiuse in a diversified regional
12 economy.

13 Section 6. Powers and duties of council.

14 The council has the following powers and duties:

15 (1) To undertake and implement appropriate measures
16 relating to the promotion of the industrial potential of the
17 hardwood industry in this Commonwealth.

18 (2) To create plans for economic development and
19 expansion of the Commonwealth's hardwood industry.

20 (3) To recommend implementation procedures for plans to
21 maximize existing mechanisms with proven ability to
22 accomplish tasks; to improve linkages among current programs;
23 and to organize business, labor and government insights into
24 the practicality and workability of suggested approaches.

25 (4) To encourage and stimulate cooperation and
26 coordination among Federal, State and local programs. This
27 paragraph includes public-sector and private-sector programs.

28 (5) To recommend to the Governor and the General
29 Assembly structural changes and the updating of economic
30 delivery tools of State Government that may prove beneficial

1 to the hardwood industry.

2 (6) To undertake research. This paragraph includes the
3 utilization of consultants relevant to the development,
4 expansion and promotion of the hardwood industry in this
5 Commonwealth.

6 (7) To maintain liaison with, and provide necessary and
7 appropriate financial assistance to, regulatory and other
8 groups and organizations involved with the hardwood industry.

9 (8) To enter into contracts.

10 (9) To appoint, fix compensation of and prescribe duties
11 of an executive director, a secretary and other personnel as
12 the council deems necessary to accomplish the purposes of
13 this act.

14 (10) To accept grants from public and private sources.

15 (11) To promulgate regulations to administer this act.

16 (12) To do things that it deems necessary, proper and
17 expedient in accomplishing the purposes of this act.

18 (13) To cooperate with the administrative agencies of
19 the Commonwealth. This paragraph includes access to the data
20 of administrative agencies unless the access is prohibited by
21 law.

22 Section 7. Reports.

23 The council shall make a biennial written report to the
24 Governor and the General Assembly on the status of the hardwood
25 industry in this Commonwealth. The first report is due within
26 one year of the effective date of this act. The report shall
27 include:

28 (1) The extent to which the hardwood industry has
29 provided employment and income for the residents of this
30 Commonwealth.

1 (2) The actions taken to enhance the performance of the
2 hardwood industry.

3 (3) Recommendations for revisions in policies, programs
4 and procedures and for proposed legislation that will enhance
5 the economic performance of the hardwood industry in this
6 Commonwealth.

7 Section 8. Appropriation.

8 The sum of \$1,500,000, or as much thereof as may be
9 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Hardwood Council for
10 the fiscal year July 1, 1987, to June 30, 1988, to carry out the
11 provisions of this act.

12 Section 9. Effective date

13 This act shall take effect in 60 days.