

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 233 Session of  
2011

---

INTRODUCED BY MUNDY, GOODMAN, HALUSKA, JOHNSON, KORTZ, MULLERY,  
MURPHY, PASHINSKI, SANTARSIERO AND STABACK, JANUARY 26, 2011

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
JANUARY 26, 2011

---

AN ACT

1 Providing for a moratorium on the issuance of new well permits  
2 for natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation.

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 Marcellus  
7 Shale Natural Gas Drilling Permit Moratorium Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Marcellus Shale formation." A carbonaceous, organic-rich  
13 Middle Devonian-age black, low-density shale situated at the  
14 base of the Hamilton Group and strategically positioned above  
15 the Onondaga formation.

16 Section 3. Moratorium.

17 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is hereby

1 established a moratorium upon the issuance of new well permits  
2 under the act of December 19, 1984 (P.L.1140, No.223), known as  
3 the Oil and Gas Act, for natural gas drilling in the Marcellus  
4 Shale formation in this Commonwealth. The purpose of the  
5 moratorium shall be to provide additional time to enact and  
6 approve appropriate laws and regulations to protect the public  
7 health and safety.

8 Section 4. Expiration.

9 The moratorium under section 3 shall expire one year after  
10 the effective date of this section.

11 Section 20. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect immediately.