

SUPPLEMENTING ACT, FIRE WARDENS
Act of Jul. 22, 1913, P.L. 906, No. 432
A SUPPLEMENT

Cl. 32

To an act, entitled "An act to create a system of fire-wardens to preserve the forests of the Commonwealth, by preventing and suppressing forest fires, and prescribing penalties for the violation thereof; providing for the compensation of the fire-wardens and those who assist in extinguishing fire, and making an appropriation therefor," approved the thirteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and nine; conferring authority upon the Department of Forestry to enter into cooperative relations with local associations established for the purpose of preventing forest fires, and providing for and regulating a local fire patrol and the compensation thereof.

Compiler's Note: Section 302(h) of Act 18 of 1995, which created the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and renamed the Department of Environmental Resources as the Department of Environmental Protection, provided that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall exercise the powers and duties conferred upon the Department of Forestry by Act 432 of 1913.

Whereas, The question of forest fires and their suppression has become a serious problem within this Commonwealth, the losses therefrom amounting to large sums of money each year, which losses ought to be prevented by adequate legislative authority and assistance; and

Whereas, Local associations for the prevention and suppression of forest fires have been established in different parts of the Commonwealth, composed of owners of land with timber growing thereon, whose lands are every year subjected to the menace of forest fires; and

Whereas, It is desirable that the Department of Forestry co-operate with such associations, and render assistance to them in accomplishing to the best advantage the work which they are established to do; therefore,--

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the Department of Forestry is hereby authorized to enter into co-operative agreements with local forest fire associations, within this Commonwealth, for the prevention and suppression of forest fires; and is hereby authorized to expend, from its general forest fire appropriation, for this purpose, a sum of money equal in amount to the amount which shall be expended by each local association for the employment of proper persons to patrol such lands during those danger seasons of the year known as the forest fire seasons, and for such period of time each season as, in the judgment of the local association and the department, it is necessary or expedient to maintain such regular patrol; and under such terms and conditions made with such local associations as, in the judgment of said department, will produce the best and most satisfactory results in the prevention

and suppression of forest fires: Provided, That such expenditure by the department shall not exceed thirty dollars per month for each patrolman.

Section 2. Every such local forest fire protection association shall render to the Department of Forestry, at the end of each calendar year, a report showing the number of acres of land comprised within the activities of the association, and an itemized statement of all receipts and expenditures during the year for which the report is rendered. And in case no appropriation shall be made by the Legislature for forest fire and protective work at any future time, all such co-operative agreements, subsisting at that time, shall be construed as being suspended during such interval for which no appropriation is made. Said local association shall also report any general results of the work that the Commissioner of Forestry may desire.

Section 3. The fire seasons hereinabove mentioned shall not be construed, by reason of the act to which this act is a supplement, as being limited to the periods of time stated in the eighteenth section thereof.

Section 4. When any group of land owners desire to organize themselves into a mutual forest fire protective association they shall promptly notify the Commissioner of Forestry of their intent, if it be the desire of such land owners to avail themselves of the benefits of this act.