

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1854 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY PAYTON, BRIGGS, BELFANTI, BRENNAN, HARKINS,
HENNESSEY, JOHNSON, DePASQUALE, KIRKLAND, MAHONEY, MCGEEHAN,
M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, READSHAW, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, STURLA,
THOMAS, WAGNER, WHEATLEY, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD, DRUCKER AND
MYERS, JULY 16, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
JULY 16, 2009

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 employees 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 employees of certain departments, boards and
20 commissions shall be determined," establishing the Green
21 Economy Center; and providing for an executive director, for
22 the Green Jobs Fund, for a seed grant program, for a work
23 force development grant program and for a pathways out of
24 poverty grant program.

25 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
26 hereby enacts as follows:

27 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known

as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding an article to read:

ARTICLE XIX-B

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE

GREEN ECONOMY CENTER

Section 1901-B. Definitions.

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

"Center." The Green Economy Center established under section 1902-B.

"Director." The executive director of the Green Economy Center.

"Fund." The Green Jobs Fund established under section 1904-B.

Section 1902-B. Green Economy Center.

(a) Establishment.--The Green Economy Center is hereby established within the Department of Environmental Resources.

(b) Powers and duties.--The center shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Promote and develop jobs and work force training in the clean energy sector.

(2) Stimulate the creation and development of new clean energy ventures, including identifying barriers to creating and expanding clean technology industry.

(3) Support existing clean energy companies.

(4) Attract new clean energy capital and research facilities.

(5) Foster collaboration among industry, government, universities and the financial sector on clean energy

1 matters.

2 (6) Serve as the Commonwealth's clearinghouse for
3 information on the clean energy industry.

4 (7) Perform any other actions appropriate to promote
5 clean energy in this Commonwealth.

6 Section 1903-B. Executive director.

7 (a) Appointment.--The Governor shall appoint an executive
8 director for the center.

9 (b) Responsibilities.--The responsibilities of the executive
10 director shall include the following:

11 (1) Oversee the operation of the center.

12 (2) Make personnel decisions for the center.

13 (3) Lead the center in carrying out its powers and
14 duties under this act.

15 Section 1904-B. Green Jobs Fund.

16 (a) Establishment.--The Green Jobs Fund is hereby
17 established in the State Treasury. The center shall establish
18 guidelines, which shall be published in the Pennsylvania
19 Bulletin, for the operation and administration of the fund.

20 (b) Use of fund.--Moneys in the fund shall be used as
21 follows:

22 (1) Fund seed grants under section 1905-B.

23 (2) Fund work force development grants under section
24 1906-B.

25 (3) Fund pathways out of poverty grants under section
26 1907-B.

27 (4) Stimulate increased financing for the construction
28 and expansion of clean energy research and development
29 facilities.

30 (5) Provide matching grants to educational institutions

1 in this Commonwealth to develop clean energy technology
2 curricula and to induce other grant-funding sources to fund
3 the expansion of research and development in clean energy.

4 (6) Promote clean energy manufacturing technology.

5 Section 1905-B. Seed grant program.

6 (a) Seed grants.--The center shall provide seed grants from
7 the fund to the following:

8 (1) Green and sustainable businesses with priority given
9 to small businesses and start-up companies.

10 (2) Educational institutions or nonprofit organizations
11 that partner with clean energy companies for work force
12 placement.

13 (3) Small businesses and start-up companies with a
14 market capitalization under \$250,000.

15 (4) Certified minority business enterprises.

16 (b) Methodology.--The department shall develop a methodology
17 to determine grant amounts and recipients.

18 Section 1906-B. Work force development grant program.

19 (a) Work force development grants.--The center shall provide
20 work force development grants from the fund to educational
21 institutions, work force development organizations, community-
22 based organizations and organized labor unions in this
23 Commonwealth that have existing work force development programs
24 in clean energy industry skills or the capacity to develop those
25 programs.

26 (b) Methodology.--The department shall develop a methodology
27 to determine grant amounts and recipients.

28 Section 1907-B. Pathways out of poverty grant program.

29 (a) Pathways out of poverty grants.--The center shall
30 provide pathways out of poverty grants from the fund to green

1 and sustainable companies that provide employment opportunities
2 for persons having a family income of less than 200% of the
3 Federal poverty level.

4 (b) Methodology.--The department shall develop a methodology
5 to determine grant amounts and recipients.

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