

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2318 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MIRABITO, KOTIK, THOMAS, MCGEEHAN, CALTAGIRONE,
PAINTER, CARROLL, VITALI, MURT, MCCARTER, COHEN, PASHINSKI,
MCNEILL AND DEAN, JUNE 6, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
JUNE 6, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 28, 1995 (P.L.89, No.18), entitled "An
2 act creating the Department of Conservation and Natural
3 Resources consisting of certain functions of the Department
4 of Environmental Resources and the Department of Community
5 Affairs; renaming the Department of Environmental Resources
6 as the Department of Environmental Protection; defining the
7 role of the Environmental Quality Board in the Department of
8 Environmental Protection; making changes to responsibilities
9 of the State Conservation Commission and the Department of
10 Agriculture; transferring certain powers and duties to the
11 Department of Health; and repealing inconsistent acts," in
12 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, further
13 providing for forests.

14 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 hereby enacts as follows:

16 Section 1. Section 302 of the act of June 28, 1995 (P.L.89,
17 No.18), known as the Conservation and Natural Resources Act, is
18 amended by adding a subsection to read:

19 Section 302. Forests.

20 * * *

21 (b.1) Unconventional gas development.--The department shall
22 provide notice and seek public input before leasing State forest

1 lands for unconventional gas development or otherwise
2 authorizing any major unconventional gas development project on
3 State forest lands. Specifically, the department shall provide
4 for the following:

5 (1) A public comment period.

6 (2) At least one public hearing or meeting.

7 (3) Public access during the comment period to detailed
8 development plans, including locations of all well pads,
9 impoundments, access roads, pipelines, compressor stations
10 and other related structures and facilities.

11 (4) Public access during the comment period to a State
12 forest environmental review that:

13 (i) Analyzes potential impacts of the proposed
14 development on ecological, recreational, cultural and
15 aesthetic resources and public health.

16 (ii) Discusses avoidance and mitigation measures.

17 (iii) Analyzes development alternatives.

18 * * *

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