

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 277

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE PASHINSKI

Printer's No. 241

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 9, by inserting after "directors;"
2 establishing the Rural Population Revitalization Commission and
3 providing for duties of the commission;

4 Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 20 and 21

5 Section 1.1. The act is amended by adding a chapter to read:

6 CHAPTER 4

7 RURAL POPULATION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

8 Section 401. Scope of chapter.

9 This chapter relates to the Rural Population Revitalization
10 Commission.

11 Section 402. Definitions.

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

15 "Commission." The Rural Population Revitalization Commission
16 established in section 403.

17 "Rural county." A county located in this Commonwealth with a
18 population density less than 291 people per square mile, or as
19 otherwise defined by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

20 "Rural school district." A public school district located in
21 this Commonwealth with a population density less than 291 people
22 per square mile, or as otherwise defined by the Center for Rural
23 Pennsylvania.

24 Section 403. Establishment.

25 The Rural Population Revitalization Commission is
26 established.

27 Section 404. Duties.

28 (a) Reviews and recommendations.--After issuing an initial
29 report under subsection(b)(12), the commission shall issue a
30 biennial report on population change in rural areas of this
31 Commonwealth which shall include reviews and recommendations
32 aimed at attracting and retaining residents in rural
33 Pennsylvania while addressing challenges facing rural
34 communities due to population shifts and changing demographics.
35 Reviews and recommendations shall include, but not be limited
36 to, the following areas:

37 (1) Increasing participation in the Federal decennial

1 census.

2 (2) Attracting and retaining residents in rural
3 Pennsylvania.

4 (3) Education and career opportunities.

5 (4) Access to health care.

6 (5) Affordable housing.

7 (6) Access to social services.

8 (7) Current issues facing rural Pennsylvania.

9 (8) Grant awards and tax credit opportunities for rural
10 Pennsylvania residents and businesses.

11 (9) Statutory and regulatory costs and impacts on rural
12 municipal governments, businesses and communities.

13 (10) Other issues facing rural Pennsylvania as
14 identified by the commission.

15 (b) Additional powers and duties.--The commission shall have
16 the following additional powers and duties:

17 (1) Review, make findings and offer recommendations
18 related to addressing and mitigating rural population shifts
19 in this Commonwealth.

20 (2) Consult with and utilize experts to assist the
21 commission in carrying out the duties under this subsection.

22 (3) Receive input from interested parties.

23 (4) Hold public hearings in different regions of this
24 Commonwealth. Virtual public hearings may be utilized by the
25 commission.

26 (5) Review and consider rural development strategies
27 utilized throughout the United States.

28 (6) Review the administration and operation of State and
29 regional programs and services and make recommendations to
30 implement new policies, statutes and regulations on improving
31 quality of life and attracting residents to rural
32 communities.

33 (7) Recommend proposed legislation and regulatory
34 changes based on the commission's findings.

35 (8) Create and maintain a database on rural
36 Pennsylvania's demographic conditions and trends.

37 (9) Establish subcommittees, including noncommission
38 members subject to the approval of the chairperson, to
39 address specific population change issues.

40 (10) Provide periodic estimates on the fiscal impact of
41 population changes to local governments, such as projected
42 changes in tax revenue resulting from population changes.

43 (11) Collect and distribute information about available
44 public grants, services and resources available to rural
45 communities.

46 (12) Not later than 90 days after the effective date of
47 this paragraph the commission shall convene its first meeting
48 under section 406 and no later than two years after the first
49 meeting the commission shall transmit an initial report of
50 the commission's findings and recommendations to the
51 following:

- 1 (i) The Governor.
2 (ii) All members of the Senate and the House of
3 Representatives.
4 (iii) The Center for Rural Pennsylvania's publicly
5 accessible Internet website.

6 Section 405. Membership.

7 (a) Members.--The commission shall consist of the following
8 members:

- 9 (1) Two individuals appointed by the Governor.
10 (2) Two members from the Senate appointed by the
11 President pro tempore of the Senate, one from the majority
12 party and one from the minority party.
13 (3) Two members from the House of Representatives
14 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one
15 from the majority party and one from the minority party.
16 (4) The director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania or
17 a designee.
18 (5) A representative from the Pennsylvania Office of
19 Rural Health.
20 (6) A young adult selected from a Statewide general farm
21 organization selected by the chairperson.
22 (7) A representative from the County Commissioners
23 Association of Pennsylvania who holds office in a rural
24 county.
25 (8) A representative from the County Commissioners
26 Association of Pennsylvania from a rural county with interest
27 or experience in human services.
28 (9) A representative from the Pennsylvania School Boards
29 Association from a rural school district.
30 (10) A representative from the Pennsylvania Chamber of
31 Business and Industry who resides in or operates a business
32 in a rural county.
33 (11) The executive director of the Rural Development
34 Council or a designee.
35 (12) A representative from the State System of Higher
36 Education who represents a university located in a rural
37 county.

38 (b) Chairperson.--The director of the Center for Rural
39 Pennsylvania shall serve as chairperson of the commission until
40 the commission elects a chairperson from the membership. The
41 members of the commission shall elect a vice chairperson from
42 among the members of the commission. The member elected vice
43 chairperson shall serve in that capacity for the ensuing term.

44 (c) Considerations.--Members appointed under subsection (a)
45 shall:

- 46 (1) have knowledge of problems facing rural communities
47 in this Commonwealth;
48 (2) have experience in advocacy relating to rural
49 issues; or
50 (3) provide leadership in programs or activities that
51 improve the quality of life for rural communities or attract

1 and retain residents in rural Pennsylvania.

2 (d) Terms.--The term of office of all members of the
3 commission shall be two years. Each member shall be eligible to
4 be reappointed to the commission.

5 Section 406. Meetings.

6 The commission shall hold its first meeting within 90 days of
7 the effective date of this section, with quorum based upon the
8 majority of the members who have been appointed. The commission
9 shall hold meetings at the call of the chairperson on no less
10 than four different dates annually.

11 Section 407. Expenses.

12 The members of the commission shall serve without salary or
13 compensation, but shall be entitled to expenses that are
14 reasonable and necessary to perform their duties.

15 Section 408. Administrative support.

16 The Center for Rural Pennsylvania staff shall provide
17 administrative support, meeting space and any other assistance
18 required by the commission to carry out the commission's duties
19 under this chapter.

20 Amend Bill, page 3, line 14, by striking out "immediately."

21 and inserting

22 as follows:

23 (1) The addition of Chapter 4 of the act shall take
24 effect in 180 days.

25 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect
26 immediately.