
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 450

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY C. GEORGE, A. K. HUTCHINSON, DeMEDIO, RENWICK,
LAUDADIO, D. R. WRIGHT, BITTINGER, LIVENGOD, YAHNER,
PETRARCA, STEWART, McLANE, WARGO, ZITTERMAN, WANSACZ AND
McCALL, MARCH 2, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, MARCH 2, 1977

AN ACT

1 Reenacting and amending the act of July 6, 1961 (P.L.515,
2 No.265), entitled, as amended, "An act authorizing the
3 Governor to provide for disaster and emergency relief under
4 certain circumstances; authorizing him to transfer certain
5 funds in the General Fund for these purposes, and making an
6 appropriation," adding reasons for and changing the amount
7 that may be transferred for disaster and emergency purposes.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of July 6, 1961 (P.L.515, No.265),
11 entitled, as amended, "An act authorizing the Governor to
12 provide for disaster and emergency relief under certain
13 circumstances; authorizing him to transfer certain funds in the
14 General Fund for these purposes, and making an appropriation,"
15 amended August 8, 1969 (P.L.228, No.92), is reenacted and
16 amended to read:

17 Section 1. Whenever the Governor finds as a fact that a
18 natural disaster or civil disorder threatens or has occurred and
19 that conditions of extreme emergency exist in all or a part or

1 parts of Pennsylvania, he shall have power to transfer any
2 unused funds which may have been appropriated for the ordinary
3 expenses of the government in the General Fund to such State
4 agencies as he may direct to be expended for relief of disaster
5 or civil disorder in such manner as the Governor shall approve,
6 and such funds are hereby appropriated to the Governor for such
7 purposes. The total of such transfers shall never exceed [one
8 million dollars (\$1,000,000)] three million dollars (\$3,000,000)
9 in any one year except by action of the General Assembly.

10 Section 2. As used in this act, conditions of extreme
11 emergency shall mean those conditions which may by investigation
12 made, be found, actually or likely, to (i) affect seriously the
13 safety, health or welfare of a substantial number of citizens of
14 the Commonwealth or preclude the operation or use of essential
15 public facilities; (ii) be of such magnitude or severity as to
16 render essential State supplementation of county and local
17 efforts or resources exerted or utilized in alleviating the
18 danger, damage, suffering or hardship faced; and (iii) have been
19 caused by forces beyond the control of man, by reason of civil
20 disorder, riot or disturbance, or by factors not foreseen and
21 not known to exist when appropriation bills were enacted.

22 Section 3. No funds shall be transferred or expended under
23 authority contained in this act unless the Governor, based on
24 investigation made, shall officially have proclaimed that
25 conditions of extreme emergency exist throughout the State or in
26 one or more political subdivisions thereof. Such conditions
27 shall be deemed to continue to exist until such time as the
28 Governor shall officially have proclaimed that they have ceased
29 to exist.

30 Section 4. In the event the Governor of the Commonwealth

declares a State of emergency because of natural disasters such as heavy snows, prolonged periods of sub-freezing weather or floods, officials of any municipality shall have the authority to clear such roadways as are necessary for the health, safety and welfare of residents, even though such roadways are not officially the responsibility of the borough or township. The Governor shall allocate a sufficient amount from the fund to the Department of Transportation to administer the reimbursement of the actual costs of such clearing.

Section 5. In the event the water system of a municipality or authority is damaged, destroyed, interrupted, or made inoperable as a direct cause of a natural disaster such as freezing or floods, said municipalities or authorities shall have the authority to lease or hire such personnel and equipment that are needed to effect restoration of the water system. The Governor shall allocate a sufficient amount from the fund to the Department of Community Affairs to administer the reimbursement for such services.

Section 6. In addition to the other provisions of this act, the Governor is hereby authorized to use any civil defense unit or units and the Pennsylvania National Guard to accomplish the purposes of this act.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.