
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 487

Session of
1987

INTRODUCED BY LETTERMAN, SIRIANNI, LIVENGOD, BATTISTO, RUDY,
LLOYD, CARLSON, HERMAN, DeWEESE, SHOWERS, DISTLER AND
MARKOSEK, MARCH 2, 1987

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES, MARCH 2, 1987

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 15, 1955 (P.L.865, No.256),
2 entitled "An act requiring rents and royalties from oil and
3 gas leases of Commonwealth land to be placed in a special
4 fund to be used for conservation, recreation, dams, and flood
5 control; authorizing the Secretary of Forests and Waters to
6 determine the need for and location of such projects and to
7 acquire the necessary land," further providing for the
8 appropriation and distribution of certain royalty and rental
9 payments; and making editorial changes.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. The title and the act of December 15, 1955
13 (P.L.865, No.256), entitled "An act requiring rents and
14 royalties from oil and gas leases of Commonwealth land to be
15 placed in a special fund to be used for conservation,
16 recreation, dams, and flood control; authorizing the Secretary
17 of Forests and Waters to determine the need for and location of
18 such projects and to acquire the necessary land," are amended to
19 read:

20 AN ACT

21 Requiring rents and royalties from oil and gas leases of

Commonwealth land to be placed in a special fund to be used for conservation, recreation, dams, and flood control; authorizing the Secretary of [Forests and Waters] Environmental Resources to determine the need for and location of such projects and to acquire the necessary land.

Section 1. Rents and Royalties.--(a) All rents and royalties from oil and gas leases of any land owned by the Commonwealth, except rents and royalties received from game and fish lands, shall be placed in a special fund to be known as the "Oil and Gas Lease [Fund" which] Fund." Except as provided in subsection (b), the fund shall be exclusively used for conservation, recreation, dams, or flood control or to match any Federal grants which may be made for any of the aforementioned purposes.

(b) Twenty per centum of each rent or royalty payment to the Department of Environmental Resources from any oil or gas lease shall be set aside in a separate account within the "Oil and Gas Lease Fund" for annual distribution by the Department of Environmental Resources to the county, municipality and school district where the oil or gas lease is situated. The Department of Environmental Resources shall, on July 1 of each year and in cooperation with the Treasury Department and the Auditor General, distribute the proceeds of the separate account in the following amounts and for the following purposes:

(1) Ten per centum of each payment shall be returned to the county where it originated and shall be used, first, to plan and successfully implement a solid-waste disposal system and, second, to reduce county real estate taxes.

(2) Five per centum of each payment shall be returned to the municipality where it originated and shall be used to reduce the

1 municipal real estate taxes.

2 (3) Five per centum of each payment shall be returned to the
3 school district where it originated and shall be used to reduce
4 the school district real estate taxes.

5 Section 2. Utilization.--It shall be within the discretion
6 of the Secretary of [Forests and Waters] Environmental Resources
7 to determine the need for and the location of any project
8 authorized by this act. The Secretary of [Forests and Waters]
9 Environmental Resources shall have the power to acquire in the
10 name of the Commonwealth by purchase, condemnation or otherwise
11 such lands as may be needed.

12 Section 3. Appropriation.--All the moneys from time to time
13 paid into the "Oil and Gas Lease Fund" are specifically
14 appropriated to the Department of [Forests and Waters]
15 Environmental Resources to carry out the purposes of this act.

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