

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1371 Session of
1991

INTRODUCED BY SHAFFER, MUSTO, HOPPER, TILGHMAN, BELAN, WENGER,
STAPLETON, JUBELIRER, CORMAN, SALVATORE, SCHWARTZ, O'PAKE,
HELFRICK, HART, BAKER AND MADIGAN, OCTOBER 15, 1991

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, OCTOBER 15, 1991

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania International Trade Council and
2 conferring powers and duties upon it.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
7 International Trade Council Act.

8 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) The development of international trade is vital to
11 the maintenance and continued growth of a healthy economy for
12 this Commonwealth.

13 (2) An increase in exports from this Commonwealth would
14 benefit this Commonwealth and, ultimately, this Nation by
15 improving the United States' balance of trade.

16 (3) Various states have utilized, or are preparing to
17 utilize, the resources of state governments to stimulate,

1 facilitate and promote international exports.

2 (4) Competition among businesses and countries will
3 endure and intensify as more countries seek to expand their
4 international export capacities.

5 (5) Financial assistance offered by the Federal
6 Government to small-size and medium-size exporters is
7 insufficient to meet the competition offered by foreign
8 countries.

9 (6) Small-size and medium-size companies seeking to
10 enter foreign markets face severe problems in obtaining
11 financing for their transactions.

12 (7) The Commonwealth has a responsibility to create
13 employment opportunities by encouraging and stimulating the
14 development of international export sales and markets by
15 Pennsylvania companies.

16 (8) This Commonwealth has a skilled labor force whose
17 members produce manufactured and agricultural goods, high
18 technology services and other services. These services are
19 marketable in foreign countries.

20 Section 3. Definitions.

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

24 "Council." The Pennsylvania International Trade Council
25 established under this act.

26 "Department." The Department of Commerce of the
27 Commonwealth.

28 "Secretary." The Secretary of Commerce of the Commonwealth.

29 Section 4. Council.

30 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania International Trade

1 Council is hereby established.

2 (b) Membership.--The council shall consist of 15 members:

3 (1) Seven government members:

4 (i) Three executive members:

5 (A) The secretary.

6 (B) The Secretary of Banking.

7 (C) The Secretary of Agriculture.

8 (ii) Four legislative members:

9 (A) Two members of the House of Representatives.

10 One member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
11 House of Representatives, and one member shall be
12 appointed by the Minority Leader.

13 (B) Two members of the Senate. One member shall
14 be appointed by the President pro tempore, and one
15 member shall be appointed by the Minority Leader.

16 (2) Eight public members appointed by the Governor
17 subject to the consent of a majority of the members elected
18 to the Senate. At least one public member must be a
19 representative of a small-size to medium-size manufacturing
20 company. The remaining public members must be professionals
21 in any of the following fields:

22 (i) Agriculture.

23 (ii) International banking and financial services.

24 (iii) Foreign trade zones.

25 (iv) International trade associations.

26 (v) Industrial labor relations.

27 (vi) Export-related services.

28 (vii) Large corporate enterprise.

29 (viii) International transportation.

30 (ix) Private international law.

1 (x) International business education.

2 (c) Terms.--

3 (1) Executive members under subsection (b)(1)(i) shall

4 serve ex officio.

5 (2) Legislative members under subsection (b)(1)(ii)

6 shall serve terms of two years.

7 (3) The following apply to public members under

8 subsection (b)(2):

9 (i) For initial appointments:

10 (A) Two members shall serve terms of one year.

11 (B) Two members shall serve terms of two years.

12 (C) Two members shall serve terms of three

13 years.

14 (D) Two members shall serve terms of four years.

15 (ii) For subsequent appointments, each member shall

16 serve a term of four years.

17 (iii) A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be

18 appointed in the same manner as the member being replaced

19 and shall serve the unexpired portion of the term of the

20 member being replaced.

21 (iv) A member may not serve more than two terms.

22 (d) Removal.--A public member who fails to attend three

23 consecutive meetings, unless excused for illness or a death in

24 the family, shall be removed from the council.

25 (e) Quorum.--Eight members of the council shall constitute a

26 quorum.

27 (f) Meetings and procedure.--The council shall meet at least

28 every three months. The council may elect a chairperson and

29 other officers as necessary. The council may establish rules of

30 procedure.

1 (g) Compensation.--Public members of the council shall serve
2 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary
3 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

4 (h) Support.--The department shall provide the council with
5 necessary staff and support services.

6 Section 5. Functions.

7 The council has the following powers and duties:

8 (1) Advise and consult with elected Commonwealth
9 officials in proposing initiatives aimed at enhancing the
10 Commonwealth's participation in international trade.

11 (2) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on
12 policies concerning the Commonwealth's role in international
13 trade.

14 (3) Foster coordination and communication between the
15 public sector and the private sector on the subject of
16 international trade.

17 (4) Evaluate the effectiveness of State and local
18 programs designed primarily to promote or assist
19 international trade and make recommendations for the
20 continued improvement of these programs.

21 (5) Make recommendations to the Governor concerning
22 pending Federal and State legislation likely to affect
23 Pennsylvania's participation in international trade.

24 (6) Publicize and promote, in cooperation and
25 consultation with the department, the importance of
26 international trade among the members of the business and
27 labor communities of this Commonwealth and among the general
28 public.

29 Section 6. Report.

30 No later than June 30 of each year, the council shall report

1 to the Governor and to the General Assembly. The report shall
2 summarize the council's activities during the prior calendar
3 year and shall make recommendations for future action.

4 Section 7. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect in 60 days.