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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 100 Session of  
1995

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INTRODUCED BY RAYMOND, TULLI, PERZEL, BARLEY AND BROWN,  
OCTOBER 25, 1995

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SENATOR TILGHMAN, APPROPRIATIONS, IN SENATE, RE-REPORTED AS  
AMENDED, JUNE 10, 1996

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AN ACT

1 Providing for a Pennsylvania Business Resource Center within the  
2 Department of Commerce; and creating the Pennsylvania  
3 Business Resource Center Advisory Board.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
8 Business Resource Center Act.

9 Section 2. Intent and purpose.

10 It is the intent of this act and its purpose shall be:

11 (1) To create a partnership of State government, private  
12 industry, ORGANIZED LABOR and higher education to enhance <—  
13 business development in this Commonwealth.

14 (2) To provide for the collection and coordination of  
15 all relevant information regarding the location, development  
16 and expansion of business and industry in this Commonwealth

1 and to provide for the innovative display of this information  
2 to businesses and industries.

3 (3) To provide a centralized, multimedia facility for  
4 businesses to meet with representatives of the Commonwealth  
5 and the utility, transportation and other companies who would  
6 provide services to them should the businesses locate in this  
7 Commonwealth.

8 (4) To provide one-stop services to assist businesses in  
9 identifying and securing appropriate permits needed to  
10 establish and operate a business.

11 (5) To provide for the compilation of a comprehensive  
12 listing of all permits required by Commonwealth agencies and  
13 categorize the required permits into a comprehensive handbook  
14 that is readily available to persons establishing a small  
15 business.

16 (6) To provide for the facilitation of contacts for an  
17 applicant with the Commonwealth agency responsible for the  
18 review of the respective permit applications.

19 Section 3. Definitions.

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

23 "Board." The Pennsylvania Business Resource Center Advisory  
24 Board.

25 "Center." The Pennsylvania Business Resource Center.

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

28 Section 4. The Pennsylvania Business Resource Center.

29 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Business Resource  
30 Center is established within the Department of Commerce.

1 (b) Coordination.--The department shall coordinate with  
2 other governmental entities, businesses, economic development  
3 organizations and academic institutions to develop a business  
4 resource center.

5 (c) Contribution.--The center is authorized to accept  
6 contributions, including money, tangible and intangible property  
7 and other items of value, from other governmental entities,  
8 businesses, economic development organizations and charitable  
9 and academic institutions for the purpose of building and  
10 operating a business resource center.

11 (d) Contract.--The department may contract, directly or  
12 through another entity, for the development and operation, in  
13 whole or in part, of the center.

14 Section 5. Pennsylvania Business Resource Center Advisory  
15 Board.

16 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established within the  
17 department an advisory board known as the Pennsylvania Business  
18 Resource Center Advisory Board.

19 (b) Membership.--The board shall consist of ~~13~~ 15 members as <—  
20 follows:

21 (1) The Secretary of Commerce or his designee.

22 (2) One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
23 Senate.

24 (3) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
25 Senate.

26 (4) One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
27 House of Representatives.

28 (5) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
29 House of Representatives.

30 (6) Two members appointed by the Governor representing

1 higher education.

2 (7) Two members appointed by the Governor representing  
3 business or industry.

4 (8) Two members appointed by the Governor representing  
5 economic development organizations.

6 (9) TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR REPRESENTING  
7 ORGANIZED LABOR. <—

8 ~~(9)~~ (10) Two at-large members appointed by the Governor. <—

9 (c) Chairperson.--The Secretary of Commerce or his designee  
10 shall serve as the chairperson. The board may elect additional  
11 officers as it deems necessary.

12 (d) Terms.--Members shall serve without compensation at the  
13 pleasure of the respective appointing authority.

14 (e) Expenses.--The members of the board shall receive no  
15 salary but shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary  
16 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

17 Section 6. Powers and duties of board.

18 The board shall have the power and its duty shall be:

19 (1) To advise the Governor and General Assembly on ways  
20 to promote this Commonwealth as a location for the expansion  
21 of business and industry.

22 (2) To provide a state-of-the-art information and  
23 computer system to supply businesses with all relevant  
24 information regarding available sites and other relevant  
25 business information relating to a business facility and a  
26 suitable environment for meeting and presenting the  
27 information to business representatives.

28 (3) To make recommendations to the Governor on the  
29 organization, ownership and management of the center, to  
30 include public and private financing and participation,

1 future composition and status of the board, potential sites  
2 for the center, computer systems, consultants, staff,  
3 contractors and other services needed to establish the  
4 business resource center.

5 (4) To gather information, issue reports, develop  
6 marketing material and perform other activities as needed to  
7 carry out the mission of the center and the purposes of this  
8 act.

9 (5) To monitor the success of the center in attracting  
10 prospective businesses to this Commonwealth.

11 (6) To solicit funds from the private sector for the  
12 purposes of renovation, construction or operation of the  
13 center.

14 (7) To make a budget recommendation to the Governor.

15 Section 7. Report.

16 ~~On or before June 1, 1996~~ BEFORE APRIL 1, 1997, the board <—  
17 shall present to the Governor and the General Assembly a report  
18 of its findings and recommendations regarding the establishment  
19 and operation of the Pennsylvania Business Resource Center, to  
20 include a recommendation as to whether the board should become a  
21 private corporate body.

22 Section 8. Expiration.

23 The Pennsylvania Business Resource Center Advisory Board and  
24 Pennsylvania Business Resource Center shall expire on ~~June~~ <—  
25 ~~SEPTEMBER 30, 1996~~ JUNE 30, 1997, unless continued by the <—  
26 General Assembly.

27 Section 9. Effective date.

28 This act shall take effect in 30 days.