

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 2789** Session of  
1996

INTRODUCED BY VAN HORNE, GEORGE, BELARDI, CURRY, GEIST, COWELL,  
CAPPABIANCA, BELFANTI, MANDERINO, ARGALL, TIGUE, HENNESSEY,  
LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, STABACK, YOUNGBLOOD, KENNEY, L. I. COHEN,  
ROBERTS, TRICH, BOSCOLA, SHANER AND SAINATO, JUNE 25, 1996

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND YOUTH, JUNE 25, 1996

AN ACT

1 Establishing a senior legislature for the Commonwealth to  
2 provide a forum for Pennsylvania senior citizens to formulate  
3 an agenda and make recommendations to the General Assembly  
4 and the Governor for prudent public policy affecting senior  
5 citizens; establishing the Pennsylvania Fund for Senior  
6 Citizens; and making a repeal.

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

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Senior  
11 Citizens Legislative Initiative Act.

12 Section 2. Establishment of Senior Legislature.

13 (a) Established.--There is established a Pennsylvania Senior  
14 Legislature, with the purpose of convening to consider and  
15 introduce ideas that will be beneficial to citizens throughout  
16 this Commonwealth. The ideas shall be voted upon and, upon  
17 closing of the legislative session, forwarded to the General  
18 Assembly as nonbinding policy recommendations.

19 (b) Composition.--The Pennsylvania Senior Legislature shall

1 consist of elected representatives from throughout this  
2 Commonwealth. Elections shall be held biannually throughout this  
3 Commonwealth in accordance with procedures established by the  
4 Department of Aging.

5 (c) Regulations.--The Department of Aging shall promulgate  
6 all rules and regulations in reference to the Pennsylvania  
7 Senior Legislature.

8 Section 3. Contributions of tax refunds or additional payments.

9 (a) Designation of check-off box.--The Department of Revenue  
10 shall provide a space on the Pennsylvania Individual Income Tax  
11 Return for a check-off box which allows for a contribution in  
12 excess of tax liability to the Pennsylvania Fund for Senior  
13 Citizens established by section 4 for the funding of the  
14 sessions of the Pennsylvania Senior Legislature and to support  
15 its activities.

16 (b) Amounts.--The contribution shall be in full dollar  
17 amounts and may be made individually by each signatory on the  
18 joint return.

19 (c) Applicability.--A designation under subsection (a) shall  
20 be made for that taxable year and is irrevocable once made.

21 (d) Instructions.--The form shall also include in the  
22 instructions the information that the contribution may be in the  
23 amount of \$1 or more and that the contribution will be used to  
24 conduct the sessions of the Pennsylvania Senior Legislature and  
25 to support its efforts on behalf of senior citizens.

26 Section 4. Establishment of fund.

27 There shall be established in the State Treasury the  
28 Pennsylvania Fund for Senior Citizens. The Department of Revenue  
29 shall notify the treasury of the amount of money paid in excess  
30 of their tax liability and the amount of refund money which

1 individuals have designated to be transferred to the  
2 Pennsylvania Seniors Fund. The Secretary of Revenue shall  
3 transfer an amount not in excess of the sum of the amounts  
4 designated by individuals pursuant to payment into that fund.

5 Section 5. Allocation of funds.

6 All funds transferred to the Pennsylvania Fund for Senior  
7 Citizens, upon appropriation by the General Assembly, shall be  
8 allocated as follows:

9 (1) To the Department of Revenue for reimbursement of  
10 all costs incurred by the Department of Revenue in connection  
11 with their duties under this legislation.

12 (2) To the Pennsylvania Department of Aging for  
13 allocation as follows:

14 (i) To the Pennsylvania Senior Legislature, in the  
15 Fiscal Year 1998-1999 and each succeeding fiscal year  
16 thereafter, the sum of \$75,000 or the balance of the fund  
17 if less than that amount remains in the fund, for the  
18 conduct of sessions of the Pennsylvania Senior  
19 Legislature.

20 (ii) The balance, if any, but not to exceed  
21 \$250,000, to the Pennsylvania Senior Legislature for its  
22 ongoing activities on behalf of older persons.

23 Section 6. Repeal.

24 Section 12 of the act of June 23, 1982 (P.L.597, No.170),  
25 known as the Wild Resource Conservation Act, is repealed insofar  
26 as it is inconsistent with this act.

27 Section 7. Expiration.

28 The provisions of this act shall expire on January 1, 2008,  
29 unless sooner acted upon by the General Assembly.

30 Section 8. Effective date.

1       This act shall take effect in 60 days.