

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2274 Session of
2000

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, BAKER, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BUNT, CLARK,
M. COHEN, CORRIGAN, DALEY, DeWEESE, FAIRCHILD, FEESE,
FREEMAN, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HARHAI, HESS, HORSEY,
HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS, LEVDANSKY, MAJOR, MASLAND, McCALL,
McILHATTAN, NICKOL, SATHER, SEYFERT, SHANER, STEELMAN, TIGUE,
TRELLO, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK
AND RAMOS, FEBRUARY 15, 2000

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 15, 2000

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 17, 1929 (P.L.1798, No.591), entitled
2 "An act providing a fixed charge, payable by the
3 Commonwealth, on lands acquired by the State and the Federal
4 Government for forest reserves, or for the purpose of
5 preserving and perpetuating a portion of the original forests
6 of Pennsylvania, and preserving and maintaining the same as
7 public places and parks; and the distribution of the same for
8 county, school, township, and road purposes in the counties,
9 school districts, and townships where such forests are
10 located; and making an appropriation," further providing for
11 amount of payment to counties, school districts and
12 townships.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of May 17, 1929 (P.L.1798,
16 No.591), referred to as the Forest Reserves Municipal Financial
17 Relief Law, amended July 6, 1995 (P.L.320, No.49), is amended to
18 read:

19 Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That (a) from and after the
20 passage of this act, all lands heretofore or hereafter acquired

1 by the Commonwealth, or by the Government of the United States,
2 for forest reserves or for the purpose of preserving and
3 perpetuating any portion of the original forests of Pennsylvania
4 and preserving and maintaining the same as public places and
5 parks, and which, by existing laws, are now exempt from
6 taxation, and all lands and property heretofore or hereafter
7 acquired for the purpose of conservation of water, or to prevent
8 flood conditions, upon which a tax is imposed by existing laws
9 payable by the Commonwealth, shall hereafter be subject to an
10 annual charge of [forty] eighty cents per acre, for the benefit
11 of the county in which said lands are located, [forty] eighty
12 cents per acre for the benefit of the schools in the respective
13 school districts in which such lands are located, and [forty]
14 eighty cents per acre for the benefit of the township where such
15 lands are located, which charge shall be payable by the
16 Commonwealth. (b) Except as hereinafter provided, the annual
17 charge payable by the Commonwealth on land acquired by the
18 Government of the United States for forest reserves is to
19 continue only until the receipts of money by treasurers and
20 township supervisors of the said counties and school districts
21 and townships in which national forest reserves are located,
22 provided for in act of April twenty-seventh, one thousand nine
23 hundred twenty-five, Pamphlet Laws, three hundred twenty-four,
24 shall equal or exceed the amount paid by the Commonwealth in
25 lieu of taxes. This subsection shall not apply to the annual
26 charge per acre for the benefit of the county in which the land
27 acquired by the Government of the United States for forest
28 reserves is located for the years one thousand nine hundred
29 fifty-three, one thousand nine hundred fifty-four, one thousand
30 nine hundred fifty-five, one thousand nine hundred fifty-six,

1 and this subsection shall not apply to two and one-half cents of
2 the annual charge per acre for the benefit of the county in
3 which the land acquired by the Government of the United States
4 for forest reserves is located for any year thereafter. The
5 charges for the benefit of the county for these years shall be
6 paid by the Commonwealth. All charges payable by the
7 Commonwealth under the provisions of this act shall be paid on
8 or before the first day of September of each year.

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