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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2

Session of  
2005

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INTRODUCED BY QUIGLEY, HARPER, ADOLPH, HERSHEY, BUNT, MCGILL,  
CRAHALLA, CORNELL, RUBLEY, E. Z. TAYLOR, WATSON, SCHRODER,  
FICHTER, FLICK, GODSHALL, O'NEILL, PETRI, WRIGHT, HENNESSEY,  
ALLEN, ARGALL, ARMSTRONG, BAKER, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BASTIAN,  
BOYD, BROWNE, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CIVERA, DALLY, J. EVANS,  
FAIRCHILD, FEESE, FLEAGLE, GANNON, GEIST, GILLESPIE,  
GINGRICH, GOOD, HARHART, HASAY, HERMAN, HICKERNELL,  
M. KELLER, KENNEY, KILLION, MAHER, R. MILLER, MUSTIO, PYLE,  
RAYMOND, REICHLEY, ROSS, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO,  
S. H. SMITH, STERN, T. STEVENSON, THOMAS, TRUE, YOUNGBLOOD,  
MICOZZIE AND HESS, FEBRUARY 3, 2005

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SENATOR M. J. WHITE, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, IN  
SENATE, RE-REPORTED AS AMENDED, APRIL 12, 2005

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AN ACT

1 Providing for submission of a question to the electorate  
2 authorizing incurring of indebtedness for the maintenance and  
3 protection of the environment, open space and farmland  
4 preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine  
5 reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other  
6 environmental initiatives.

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 Green PA Bond~~ <—  
11 ~~Act.~~

12 THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL <—  
13 STEWARDSHIP WATERSHED PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT.

14 Section 2. Authorization to incur indebtedness.

1 Pursuant to the provisions of section 7(a)(3) of Article VIII  
2 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the question of incurring  
3 indebtedness of up to ~~\$800,000,000~~ \$600,000,000, in annual <—  
4 increments not to exceed ~~\$115,000,000~~ \$100,000,000, for the <—  
5 maintenance and protection of the environment, open space and  
6 farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine  
7 reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other  
8 environmental initiatives shall be submitted to the electors at  
9 the ~~next election following enactment of this act.~~ MUNICIPAL <—  
10 PRIMARY IN 2005.

11 Section 3. Certification.

12 The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall forthwith certify the  
13 question to the county boards of elections.

14 Section 4. Question to electorate.

15 The question shall be in ~~substantially~~ the following form: <—  
16 Do you favor ~~the incurring of indebtedness by~~ AUTHORIZING <—  
17 the Commonwealth ~~of up to \$800,000,000~~ TO BORROW UP TO <—  
18 \$600,000,000, in annual increments not to exceed  
19 ~~\$115,000,000~~ \$100,000,000, for the maintenance and <—  
20 protection of the environment, open space and farmland  
21 preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine  
22 reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other  
23 environmental initiatives?

24 Section 5. Election procedure.

25 The election shall be conducted in accordance with the act of  
26 June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania  
27 Election Code, ~~except that any time limits for advertising~~ <—  
28 EXCEPT THAT: <—

29 (1) ANY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVERTISING OR notice related  
30 to the question are hereby ~~waived.~~ WAIVED; <—

1 (2) THE REQUIREMENT FOR A STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION  
2 201.1 OF THE ELECTION CODE IS HEREBY WAIVED;

3 (3) ANY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
4 TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF THE QUESTION IS HEREBY ABROGATED;  
5 AND

6 (4) THE DEADLINE FOR ALL BOARDS OF ELECTIONS THROUGHOUT  
7 THIS COMMONWEALTH TO ACCEPT RECEIPT OF AND CANVASS ABSENTEE  
8 BALLOTS PROPERLY CAST BY ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES AND  
9 OVERSEAS VOTERS IS EXTENDED UNTIL 5 P.M. EASTERN DAYLIGHT  
10 SAVING TIME TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2005.

11 Section 6. Use of proceeds.

12 Proceeds of the borrowing shall be used as determined by the  
13 General Assembly by law, for the maintenance and protection of  
14 the environment, open space and farmland preservation, watershed  
15 protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage  
16 remediation and other environmental initiatives.

17 SECTION 7. DEBT SERVICE LIMITATION. <—

18 THIS ACT SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION  
19 OF ANY NEW TAX OR FEE OR PERMITTING THE INCREASE OF ANY EXISTING  
20 TAX OR FEE TO REPAY THE BORROWING AUTHORIZED BY THE APPROVAL BY  
21 THE ELECTORATE OF THE QUESTION SET FORTH IN SECTION 4 (RELATING  
22 TO QUESTION TO ELECTORATE).

23 Section 7 8. Effective date. <—

24 This act shall take effect immediately.