

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1742 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY MILLARD, GIBBONS, MILLER, SCAVELLO, ADOLPH, BAKER,
BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BOBACK, BROOKS, CAUSER,
CREIGHTON, DALLY, DePASQUALE, ELLIS, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD,
FLECK, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GROVE, HANNA, HARRIS, HICKERNELL,
HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, M. KELLER, KESSLER, KNOWLES, KULA,
LONGIETTI, MAHER, MAJOR, MOUL, MURT, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL,
PASHINSKI, PEIFER, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PYLE, RAPP, REED,
REESE, REICHLEY, ROHRER, SAINATO, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY,
STERN, TALLMAN, J. TAYLOR, WHEATLEY, WHITE AND YUDICHAK,
JUNE 18, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, JUNE 18,
2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 8, 1986 (P.L.437, No.92), entitled "An
2 act providing for grants to agricultural societies and
3 associations to develop and improve agricultural fairs;
4 establishing an advisory committee in the Department of
5 Agriculture; and making repeals," further providing for
6 grants; and providing for additional grants.

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

9 Section 1. Section 5 of the act of July 8, 1986 (P.L.437,
10 No.92), known as the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act, is
11 amended to read:

12 Section 5. Grants.

13 The department is authorized to make grants in amounts
14 approved by the secretary in the following manner:

15 (1) On or before February 1, annually, to eligible

1 county agricultural societies, independent agricultural
2 societies and other organizations which conduct an annual
3 agricultural fair to assist the organizations as follows:

4 (i) Financing their operating costs, including, but
5 not limited to, the cost of exhibiting agribusiness
6 products, materials and equipment, conducting
7 agricultural or agribusiness educational activities and
8 demonstrations, and awarding premiums to contest and
9 exhibit winners at the fairs.

10 (A) A basic payment for operating expenses, the
11 sum of which may not exceed [\$14,000] \$16,800 for
12 Class A fairs, [\$12,000] \$14,000 for Class B fairs,
13 [\$9,500] \$11,400 for Class C fairs, [\$7,000] \$8,400
14 for Class D fairs and [\$2,500] \$3,000 for Class E
15 fairs.

16 (B) Fifty percent of money paid for all other
17 agricultural premiums not included in paragraph (1),
18 with a maximum payment for premiums not to exceed
19 [\$15,000] \$18,000.

20 (ii) Financing their costs to improve buildings and
21 grounds, add land or construct new facilities. Grants
22 provided under this subparagraph shall finance 75% of the
23 costs of the improvement, addition or construction and
24 may not exceed \$37,500.

25 (iii) [Reimbursing] Notwithstanding section 225.1 of
26 the act of December 17, 1981 (P.L.435, No.135), known as
27 the Race Horse Industry Reform Act, reimbursing each
28 county agricultural society and each independent
29 agricultural society conducting harness horse racing
30 during its annual fair, other than races for two- and

1 three-year-old colts and fillies provided for in
2 subparagraph (iv), in an amount of money equal to that
3 used during its annual fair as purse money for harness
4 horse racing, track and stable maintenance, starting gate
5 rental and the cost of all harness horse racing officials
6 required during the annual fair. Reimbursement shall not
7 exceed [\$13,000] \$20,000, and a minimum of \$4,000 shall
8 be used for purse money.

9 (iv) Reimbursing each county agricultural society
10 and independent agricultural society conducting races for
11 two- and three-year-old colts and fillies at its annual
12 fair, concerning which a maximum of [\$7,600] \$11,500 was
13 paid annually. Entrance fees collected for each race
14 shall not be included for purposes of determining
15 eligibility for a grant under this section.

16 (2) To Statewide agricultural organizations which
17 contribute to the development of many phases of agriculture
18 or agribusiness.

19 (3) To countywide or Statewide 4-H and FFA or combined
20 FFA and FHA units of boys and girls under 21 years of age to
21 be used for the general operations of the units in
22 agriculture or agribusiness programs. An organization whose
23 members consist entirely of minors must apply through and be
24 represented by an adult advisory group, and both groups must
25 be recognized by their respective county governments or by
26 the Commonwealth. Each countywide or Statewide 4-H and FFA or
27 combined FFA and FHA unit shall be required to report on its
28 activities and justify these activities as events which
29 contribute to the advancement of agriculture or agribusiness.
30 Reports shall include a record of expenses incurred in the

1 conduct of these qualifying activities. The grant awarded to
2 each youth group cannot exceed the amount of expenses
3 reported for the conduct of the activities.

4 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

5 Section 5.1. Additional grants.

6 (a) Transfers from the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.--
7 Notwithstanding 4 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to gaming), all sums
8 transferred to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for the
9 purpose of issuing grants under 4 Pa.C.S. § 1408(c) (relating to
10 transfers from State Gaming Fund) which have not been
11 distributed in grants to local law enforcement agencies within
12 12 months of transfer to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board
13 shall be transferred to the department.

14 (b) Grants.--Any sum received by the department under
15 subsection (a) shall be distributed under section 5(1) to
16 eligible county agricultural societies, independent agricultural
17 societies and other organizations which conduct an annual
18 agricultural fair.

19 (c) Other grants not affected.--Any grants provided under
20 subsection (b) are intended to supplement, and not supplant,
21 grants from funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the
22 purposes of this act.

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.