

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1288 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY STOUT, WARD AND KASUNIC, MARCH 24, 2010

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OCTOBER 5, 2010

AN ACT

1 Designating the REPLACEMENT bridge ~~that carries~~ FOR THE BRIDGE ←
2 CARRYING State Route 2018 over the Monongahela River from the
3 Borough of North Charleroi, Washington County, to the City of
4 Monessen, Westmoreland County, as the Governor John K. Tener
5 Memorial Bridge.

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

8 Section 1. Governor John K. Tener Memorial Bridge.

9 (a) Declaration of policy.--The General Assembly finds and
10 declares as follows:

11 ~~(1) John K. Tener moved to Charleroi on April 20, 1891~~ ←
12 ~~and became the President of the First National Bank of~~
13 ~~Charleroi by 1898. He organized the Charleroi Savings & Trust~~
14 ~~company being its Secretary/Treasurer as well as being~~
15 ~~President of the Mercantile Bridge Company and was the~~
16 ~~Director of the Webster Monessen, Belle Vernon, Fayette City~~
17 ~~Street Railway Co. (Trolleys) and of the Westside Street~~
18 ~~Railway Company.~~

19 (1) JOHN KINLEY TENER, 1863-1946, A FORMER CONGRESSMAN, ←

1 WAS THE SECOND OF THREE GOVERNORS ELECTED FROM WASHINGTON
2 COUNTY. HE HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE ONLY FOREIGN-BORN
3 GOVERNOR SINCE THE OFFICE WAS FORMED IN 1790. HE WAS BORN IN
4 COUNTY TYRONE, IRELAND, ON JULY 25, 1863. HE MOVED TO
5 CHARLEROI, WASHINGTON COUNTY, ON APRIL 20, 1891, AND BECAME
6 THE PRESIDENT OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHARLEROI BY
7 1898. HE ORGANIZED THE CHARLEROI SAVINGS & TRUST COMPANY AND
8 SERVED AS ITS SECRETARY/TREASURER, WAS PRESIDENT OF THE
9 MERCANTILE BRIDGE COMPANY AND DIRECTOR OF THE WEBSTER-
10 MONESSEN, BELLE VERNON, FAYETTE CITY STREET RAILWAY COMPANY
11 (TROLLEYS) AND OF THE WESTSIDE STREET RAILWAY COMPANY.

12 (2) ~~John K.~~ Tener served as Governor of Pennsylvania ←
13 from 1911 to 1915 and was considered a highway czar signing
14 into law the "Sproul Road Bill." This law facilitated the
15 improvement of State roads across this Commonwealth. ~~He was~~ ←
16 ~~also instrumental in having the Charleroi Monessen Bridge~~
17 ~~built.~~

18 (3) AMONG HIS OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, TENER, WHO STOOD 6 ←
19 FEET 4 INCHES, WAS A FORMER MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYER. HE
20 STARTED OUT BRIEFLY AS AN OUTFIELDER WITH THE BALTIMORE
21 ORIOLES IN 1885. HE LATER PLAYED FOR THE CHICAGO WHITE
22 STOCKINGS, NOW THE CUBS, AS A PITCHER AND OUTFIELDER. HE HAD
23 A 7-5 RECORD WITH A 2.74 ERA IN 1888 AND WENT 15-15 WITH A
24 3.64 ERA IN 1889. TENER MAINTAINED HIS INTEREST IN BASEBALL
25 AFTER RETIRING AS A PLAYER. IN 1912, GOVERNOR TENER SPOKE OUT
26 AGAINST GAMBLING IN BASEBALL AND INFORMED DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
27 AROUND THE STATE THAT HE BELIEVED EXISTING LAWS COULD BE USED
28 AGAINST ILLEGAL BETTING. IN 1913, PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES OWNER
29 WILLIAM BAKER PROPOSED THAT GOVERNOR TENER BECOME NATIONAL
30 LEAGUE PRESIDENT. TENER ACCEPTED THE OFFER AT A CONTRACT OF

1 \$25,000 PER YEAR BUT WAS NOT PAID UNTIL APRIL 1915, WHEN HIS
2 TERM AS GOVERNOR EXPIRED.

3 (4) THE CHARLEROI-MONESSEN BRIDGE WAS CONSTRUCTED BY
4 TENER'S MERCANTILE BRIDGE COMPANY AS AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF A
5 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP. THE BRIDGE WAS PURCHASED BY THE
6 COMMONWEALTH IN 1949, BUT TOLLS WERE CONTINUED UNTIL IT
7 BECAME FREE TO THE PUBLIC IN 1956.

8 (5) THE CHARLEROI-MONESSEN BRIDGE WAS REHABILITATED
9 SHORTLY AFTER WORLD WAR II AND AGAIN IN 1986. THE BRIDGE WAS
10 CLOSED IN MID-FEBRUARY 2009 AFTER A ROUTINE INSPECTION
11 REVEALED DETERIORATION OF A VERTICAL PANEL THAT SUPPORTS THE
12 MIDDLE OF THE BRIDGE. A NEW BRIDGE WILL REPLACE THE CURRENT
13 STRUCTURE. THE 24-MONTH PROJECT WILL INCLUDE REPLACING THE
14 THREE TRUSS SPANS AND REHABILITATING THE APPROACH SPANS AT A
15 COST OF \$25,000,000 TO \$35,000,000.

16 (b) Designation.--The bridge that ~~carries~~ WILL REPLACE THE ←
17 BRIDGE CARRYING State Route 2018 over the Monongahela River from
18 the Borough of North Charleroi, Washington County, to the City
19 of Monessen, Westmoreland County, shall be designated as the
20 Governor John K. Tener Memorial Bridge.

21 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall place and
22 maintain appropriate signs at both ends of the bridge designated
23 in subsection (b).

24 Section 2. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect ~~in 60 days~~ IMMEDIATELY. ←