

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 696 Session of  
2017

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, RAVENSTAHL, D. COSTA, FREEMAN AND  
DONATUCCI, MARCH 3, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
MARCH 3, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in development, further providing for well location  
3 restrictions.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 3215(a) of Title 58 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 3215. Well location restrictions.

9 (a) General rule.--Wells may not be drilled within 200 feet,  
10 or, in the case of an unconventional gas well, 500 feet,

11 measured horizontally from the vertical well bore to a building  
12 or water well, existing when the copy of the plat is mailed as  
13 required by section 3211(b) (relating to well permits) without  
14 written consent of the owner of the building or water well.

15 Unconventional gas wells may not be drilled within [1,000] 2,000  
16 feet measured horizontally from the vertical well bore to any  
17 existing water well, surface water intake[, reservoir] or  
18 [other] water supply extraction point used by a water purveyor

1 without the written consent of the water purveyor.  
2 Unconventional gas wells may not be drilled within 4,000 feet  
3 measured horizontally from any existing dam or reservoir. If  
4 consent is not obtained and the distance restriction would  
5 deprive the owner of the oil and gas rights of the right to  
6 produce or share in the oil or gas underlying the surface tract,  
7 the well operator shall be granted a variance from the distance  
8 restriction upon submission of a plan identifying the additional  
9 measures, facilities or practices as prescribed by the  
10 department to be employed during well site construction,  
11 drilling and operations. The variance shall include additional  
12 terms and conditions required by the department to ensure safety  
13 and protection of affected persons and property, including  
14 insurance, bonding, indemnification and technical requirements.  
15 Notwithstanding section 3211(e), if a variance request has been  
16 submitted, the department may extend its permit review period  
17 for up to 15 days upon notification to the applicant of the  
18 reasons for the extension.

19 \* \* \*

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