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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1224 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HANNA, COHEN, MURT, THOMAS, ROZZI, MILLARD,  
MCNEILL AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 18, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
MAY 18, 2015

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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," increasing annual  
11 charge.

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

14 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of May 17, 1929 (P.L.1798,  
15 No.591), referred to as the Forest Reserves Municipal Financial  
16 Relief Law, amended July 7, 2006 (P.L.722, No.102), is amended  
17 to read:

18 Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That (a) from and after the  
19 passage of this act, all lands heretofore or hereafter acquired  
20 by the Commonwealth, or by the Government of the United States,  
21 for forest reserves or for the purpose of preserving and  
22 perpetuating any portion of the original forests of Pennsylvania

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

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

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, or  
11 immediately, whichever is later.