## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL No. 681 Session of 1981

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 18, 1981

## AN ACT

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1 Section 404. Limitation on the issuance of notes and bonds. Section 405. Investment of moneys of the authority. 2 3 Section 406. Exemption from taxation. 4 Section 407. Repayment of Commonwealth appropriations. 5 Effective date. Section 408. The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 6 7 hereby enacts as follows: 8 CHAPTER 1 9 GENERAL PROVISIONS 10 Section 1. Short title. 11 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Hydroelectric Authority Act." 12 13 Section 102. Declaration of policy. 14 (a) The Creator, by his glorious bounty, has provided the 15 citizens of this Commonwealth with a great potential energy 16 resource in the form of falling and flowing water. It is declared to be the policy of the Commonwealth to support and 17 18 promote the exploitation of this great indigenous and 19 nonpolluting energy resource. It is further declared to be the policy of the Commonwealth that the benefits derived from this 20 21 act should flow as directly as possible to the citizens of the 22 Commonwealth. 23 The purpose of this act is to promote the improvement or (b) 24 rehabilitation of existing hydroelectric facilities and develop 25 such new hydroelectric projects as the authority deems necessary 26 or desirable to contribute to the adequacy, economy and 27 reliability of the supply of electric power and energy or to 28 conserve fuel.

29 (c) It is declared to be the policy of the Commonwealth to 30 recognize, protect and enhance the balanced and multiple use and 19810H0681B0716 - 3 - conservation of the water resources of the Commonwealth, for
 navigation, water supply, power and energy, flood control and
 environmental purposes consistent with comprehensive plans and
 programs for water management.

5 Section 103. Definitions.

6 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall 7 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the 8 meanings given to them in this section:

9 "Advertisement." Notice published in six newspapers of
10 general circulation published within the Commonwealth and notice
11 published once in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

"Private electric power supply entity." A public utility, as defined in Title 66 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (relating to public utilities), which produces, generates, transmits, distributes or furnishes electricity to or for the public for compensation, and which is regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the purpose of its retail rates.

Public electric power supply entity." An entity which produces, generates, transmits, distributes or furnishes electricity to or for the public on a not-for-profit basis, including but not limited to a rural electric cooperative, municipality, municipal authority or agency or instrumentality of a state.

25 Section 104. Hydroelectric authority.

For the purpose of effectuating the policies declared in section 102, there is hereby created a corporate instrumentality of the Commonwealth to be known as the Hydroelectric Authority, referred to as the authority in this act, which shall be a body corporate and politic, a political subdivision of the 19810H0681B0716 - 4 - Commonwealth exercising governmental and public powers perpetual
 in duration capable of suing and being sued and having a seal
 and which shall have the powers and duties hereinafter
 enumerated together with such others as may hereafter be
 conferred upon it by law. The authority shall report annually to
 the Governor and the Legislature upon its operations and
 transactions.

8 Section 105. Directors.

The authority shall consist of five directors who shall 9 (a) 10 serve respectively for terms of one, two, three, four and five years to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice 11 and consent of the Senate. One director shall be designated by 12 13 the Governor to serve as chairman of the authority. Each director shall hold office until his successor has been 14 15 appointed and qualified. At the expiration of the term of each 16 director and of each succeeding director, the Governor shall, by and with the consent of the Senate, appoint a successor who 17 18 shall hold office for a term of five years or until his successor has been appointed and qualified. In the event of a 19 20 vacancy occurring in the office of a director by death, 21 resignation or otherwise, the Governor shall, by and with the 22 advice and consent of the Senate, appoint his successor who shall hold office for the unexpired term. Three directors shall 23 24 constitute a quorum for the purpose of organizing the authority 25 and conducting the business thereof.

(b) The director chosen as chairman, as provided in
subsection (a) shall receive a salary of \$17,500 per annum. Each
other director shall receive a salary of \$15,000 per annum.
Section 106. Officers and employees.

30 The directors shall from time to time select such officers, 19810H0681B0716 - 5 - other than chairman and employees including engineering,
 marketing and legal skills, as they may require for the
 performance of their duties and shall prescribe the duties and
 compensation of each officer and employee. They shall adopt
 bylaws and rules and regulations suitable to the purposes of
 this act.

Section 107. General powers and duties of the authority. 7 8 (a) Upon the appointment and organization of the directors and subject to the conditions and limitations in this act, the 9 10 authority, in cooperation with river basin commissions and 11 appropriate agencies of the State and Federal Governments shall proceed with the improvement and development of the waters of 12 13 the Commonwealth for the generation of hydroelectric power in 14 order to provide and maintain an adequate and dependable supply 15 of electric power and energy for the present and future needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth. 16

17 (b) The exercise of any power by the authority shall be upon18 the following conditions:

(1) Prior to the adoption of any plan or any part or
revision thereof, for the acquisition, construction,
development of financing or any hydroelectric facility, the
authority shall consult with water users, public and private
power supply entities and interested public agencies and
shall conduct public hearings after due advertisement has
been given and upon at least 30 days notice.

(2) The planning, acquisition, construction,
 development, operation and financing of any hydroelectric
 facility by the authority shall be conducted in a manner
 consistent with the State water plan and any comprehensive
 river basin plans adopted by any Federal/State compact or
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1 interstate river basin commission.

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2 Section 108. Specific powers and duties of the authority.

(a) The authority is authorized and directed to:

4 (1) Cooperate with the appropriate agencies and 5 officials of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United 6 States Government to assure that any hydroelectric project undertaken under this act shall be consistent with any State 7 8 or Federal plans for the improvement of commerce, navigation, 9 water supply, recreation and flood control relating to such 10 waters and shall be so planned and constructed as to be 11 adaptable to such plans.

(2) Construct, acquire, operate, maintain or finance the
construction of any hydroelectric project, or any multiple
purpose project including hydroelectric facilities, either
alone or in cooperation or conjunction with any appropriate
Federal, State or interstate agency or any other appropriate
entity, either public or private.

18 (3) Accept such Federal or other public or governmental
19 assistance as is now or may thereafter become available to
20 it.

(4) Enter into contracts with agencies or officials of
the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States
Government or public or private electric power supply
entities relating to the construction, operation,
maintenance, or financing of any project authorized by this
act.

(5) Exercise all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this act and as incidental thereto to own, lease, build, operate, maintain and dispose of real and personal property of every 19810H0681B0716 - 7 -

1 kind and character, to acquire real property and any or every 2 interest therein for its lawful purposes by purchase or by 3 condemnation as hereinafter provided, to borrow money and 4 secure the same by bonds or liens upon revenue of any 5 property or contracts held or to be held by it, to sell 6 electric power on a wholesale basis and generally to do any 7 and everything necessary or convenient to carry out the 8 purposes of this act, provided that the authority shall have no power at any time to pledge the credit of the Commonwealth 9 10 nor shall any of its obligations or securities be deemed to 11 be obligations of the Commonwealth.

12 (6) Delegate to any State government agency management13 functions given to it under this act.

14 Notwithstanding any limitations herein before expressed, (b) 15 the authority is authorized and directed forthwith or from time to time as it shall deem advisable and within the limitations of 16 the appropriations made available for it to initiate and pursue 17 18 all inquiries, investigations, surveys and studies which it may 19 deem necessary or desirable as preliminary to the effectuation 20 of the other powers and duties conferred upon it by this act. 21 (c) Neither the authority nor any director, officer or 22 agency thereof shall have any power to waive or surrender for 23 any purpose whatsoever any right of the Commonwealth, whether 24 sovereign or propriety in character in and to the waterways of 25 the Commonwealth, their waters, powers, channels, beds or uses 26 or the right of the Commonwealth to assert such rights at any future time: Provided, however, That nothing contained herein 27 28 shall be construed as limiting the power of the authority to accept licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory 29 30 Commission pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Power Act, - 8 -19810H0681B0716

as amended, and the terms and conditions therein imposed
 pursuant to law.

3 Section 109. Contracts negotiated by the authority.

4 (a) All construction, reconstruction, repairs or work of any 5 nature made directly by the authority, where the entire cost, value or amount of such construction, reconstruction, repairs, 6 or work, including labor and materials, shall exceed \$5,000, 7 except construction, reconstruction, repairs or work done by 8 9 employees of the authority, or by labor supplied under agreement 10 with any Federal or State agency, with supplies and materials 11 purchased as hereinafter provided, shall be done only under 12 contract or contracts to be entered into by the authority with 13 the lowest responsible bidder upon proper terms, after due 14 advertisement has been given asking for competitive bids as 15 hereinafter provided. No contract shall be entered into between 16 the authority and any contractor for construction or improvement 17 or repair of any project or portion thereof, unless the 18 contractor shall give an undertaking with a sufficient surety or 19 sureties approved by the authority and in an amount fixed by the 20 authority, for the faithful performance of the contract. All contracts of surety shall provide, among other things, that the 21 22 contractor entering into a contract with the authority will pay 23 for all materials furnished and services rendered for the 24 performance of the contract and that any person or corporation 25 furnishing such materials or rendering such services may 26 maintain an action to recover for the same against the obligor 27 in the undertaking, as though such person or corporation was 28 named therein, provided the action is brought within one year after the time the cause of the action occurred. 29

30 (b) All supplies and materials costing \$2,500 or more to be 19810H0681B0716 - 9 -

purchased directly by the authority shall be purchased only 1 after due advertisement. The authority shall accept the lowest 2 bid or bids, kind, quality and material being equal, but the 3 authority shall have the right to reject any or all bids or 4 5 select a single item from any bid. The provisions as to bidding shall not apply to the purchase of patented and manufactured 6 products offered for sale in a noncompetitive market or solely 7 by an authorized dealer of a manufacturer. 8

9 Section 110. Exemption from State regulation.

10 The authority shall be exempt in any and all respects from 11 the jurisdiction and control of the Public Utility Commission of 12 this Commonwealth or its successor.

13 Section 111. Audit of authority.

The accounts and books of the authority including its receipts, disbursements, contracts, notes, bonds, investments and other matters relating to its finances, operation and affairs shall be examined and audited from time to time by the Auditor General.

19 Section 112. Funding of the authority.

(a) The sum of \$3,000,000 is hereby specifically
appropriated to the authority to be deposited in a special
account to be created in the State Treasury to be known as the
Hydroelectric Facilities Development Fund.

(b) As often as may be necessary, the authority shall requisition from the appropriate funds such amounts as may be necessary to provide for the payment of the administrative costs related to this act.

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## CHAPTER 2

29 PROJECTS OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY

30 Section 201. Authority authorized to operate projects,

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transmission facilities.

(a) The authority is authorized, subject to the conditions
of this act, to construct, acquire, operate, maintain and
dispose of, throughout the Commonwealth, such hydroelectric
projects, including generation, transmission and related
facilities, as it deems necessary or desirable.

7 (b) The authority may acquire or construct facilities for 8 the transmission of hydroelectric power and energy produced by 9 it where such facilities are not otherwise available upon 10 reasonable terms.

Section 202. Authority authorized to apply for licenses and
 permits.

13 The authority is authorized to apply to the appropriate 14 agencies of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United 15 States Government for such licenses, permits or approval of its 16 plans or projects as necessary and to accept such licenses, 17 permits or approvals as may be tendered to it by such agencies. 18 Section 203. Authority to have exclusive right to develop

State-owned projects over five megawatts.

20 The authority shall have the exclusive right among agencies of the Commonwealth to construct, acquire, operate, maintain, 21 22 and dispose of, throughout the Commonwealth, all State-owned hydroelectric generating projects of five megawatts of installed 23 24 capacity or greater. Any State agency may develop the 25 hydroelectric potential of a State-owned dam or reservoir, even 26 if the installed capacity of the project is five megawatts or 27 greater, in the event the authority declines to do so. 28 Section 204. Sale of power and energy.

29 (a) Hydroelectric projects developed pursuant to this 30 chapter shall be considered to be exclusively for the benefit of 19810H0681B0716 - 11 - the people of the Commonwealth and especially of the consumers
 of the preference entities listed in subsection (b) to whom the
 power can be most economically made available.

4 (b) In the sales and distribution of power generated by
5 projects operated by the authority, preference shall be given to
6 municipalities, municipal authorities, rural electric
7 cooperatives and State agencies.

8 (c) Sales to such entities listed in subsection (b) shall be at prices representing the cost of generation, capital and 9 10 operating charges, plus a fair cost of transmission as 11 determined by the directors. Sales to municipalities, municipal authorities, political subdivisions and rural electric 12 13 cooperatives shall be subject to conditions which shall assure 14 the resale of such power to domestic and rural consumers at the 15 lowest possible price.

(d) The authority may provide in any contract or contracts which it may make for the sale, transmission and distribution of the power that the purchaser, transmitter or distributor shall construct, maintain and operate on such terms as the authority may deem proper, such connecting lines as may be necessary for transmission of the power from main transmission lines to such entities.

23 (e) Contracts for the sale, transmission and distribution of24 power generated by such projects shall provide:

(1) Payment of all operating and maintenance expenses ofthe project.

(2) Interest on and amortization and reserve charges
sufficient within 50 years of the date of issuance to retire
the bonds of the power authority issued for the project.

30 (3) Continuous control and operation of the project by 19810H0681B0716 - 12 - the authority or any cooperating Federal, State or interstate
 agency or any other appropriate public or private entity.

3 (4) The effectuation of the policies declared in this4 act.

5 Full and complete disclosure to the authority of all (5) factors of cost in the transmission and distribution of power 6 so that rates to consumers may be fixed initially in the 7 8 contract and may be adjusted from time to time on the basis 9 of true cost data provided that in fixing such cost of transmission and distribution, no account shall be given to 10 11 any franchise value, going value or goodwill based upon the 12 existence of the contract in the availability of the power 13 for sale by the transmitting or distributing company or any company associated therewith. 14

15 (6) Periodic revisions of the service and rates to 16 consumers on the basis of accurate cost data obtained by such 17 accounting methods and systems as shall be approved by the 18 directors and in furtherance and effectuation of the policy 19 declared in this act.

20 (7) The rate at which power is sold by the authority 21 shall not be governed by the Public Utility Commission or its 22 successors and that, in the event any power purchased by the 23 authority shall be resold, such sale shall be made at rates 24 no higher than those at which power was purchased from the authority: Provided, however, That the entity reselling the 25 26 power may recover the costs of transmission and other fair 27 and proper costs associated with the resale of the power.

28 (8) The rate structures agreed upon in such contract may 29 provide different rates for different localities, classes of 30 consumers and amounts of current consumed and for changes in 19810H0681B0716 - 13 - the rates resulting from variation in operating cost and
 fixed charges.

3 (9) For the cancellation and termination of any such
4 contract upon violation of the terms thereof by the
5 purchasing, transmitting or distributing public body or
6 company or any subsidiary or associate thereof.

7 (10) For such security for performance as the authority 8 may deem practicable and advisable including provisions 9 assuring the continuance of service by the purchasing, 10 transmitting or distributing public agencies or companies or 11 their use of their facilities for such service or the 12 continuance of an outlet and adequate market for the power 13 generated by such projects.

14 (11) Such other terms not inconsistent with the 15 provisions and policy of this act as the authority may deem 16 advisable.

17 Section 205. Awarding contracts for the sale of power and18 energy.

19 (a) Whenever power and energy from any project operated by 20 the authority shall become available for sale from the portion of said project owned by the authority, the authority shall 21 publish due advertisement of such availability. The 22 23 advertisement shall indicate that the authority will, for a period of 60 days after the date of the advertisement receive 24 proposals from interested parties for the purchase of the power 25 26 and that the authority shall hold a public hearing 60 days from 27 the date of the advertisement at which interested parties may 28 present testimony and other facts and data relative to their 29 proposals.

30 (b) After hearing testimony from the parties interested in 19810H0681B0716 - 14 - purchasing the power which is available for sale by the
 authority and receiving all facts and data relative thereto, the
 authority shall issue a preliminary order proposing a contract
 or contracts for the sale of said power and energy.

5 (c) The coparties to all contracts shall have 60 days from 6 the date of the preliminary order of the authority to negotiate 7 details of the contract with the authority.

8 (1) If the authority and its coparty agree on a 9 mutually-acceptable contract, the authority shall issue a 10 final order granting the contract and instructing that it be 11 executed in the name of the authority by its chairman and 12 attested to by its secretary.

13 (2) If the authority and its coparty do not agree on a 14 mutually-acceptable contract within the prescribed period of 15 time, the authority shall reconsider other proposals for the 16 purchase of the power and energy available for sale or may 17 ask for new proposals to be made to it.

(d) Parties wishing to challenge proposed contracts or terms
thereof shall have 60 days to do so after the execution of the
final contract by the authority and its coparty using the
remedies available to it under the laws of the Commonwealth.
Section 206. Authority prohibited from making retail sales of
power and energy.

The authority shall be prohibited from making sales of power and energy to retail customers: Provided, however, That the authority is not prohibited from making sales of power and energy to any State or municipal agency in the Commonwealth. Section 207. Acquisition of property.

29 (a) If, for any of the purposes hereunder including but not 30 limited to temporary construction purposes and the making of 19810H0681B0716 - 15 -

additions or improvements, the authority shall find it necessary 1 or convenient for it to acquire any real property whether for 2 3 immediate or future use, then the authority may find and 4 determine that such property is required for a public use and 5 upon such due determination, such property shall be deemed to be required for such public use until otherwise determined by the 6 7 authority and with the exceptions hereinafter specifically noted. If the authority is unable to agree for the acquisition 8 9 of any such property or if the owner thereof shall be incapable 10 of disposing of the same or if after diligent search and inquiry 11 the name and residence of any such owner cannot be ascertained or if any such property has been acquired or attempted to be 12 13 acquired and the title or other rights therein have been found 14 to be invalid or defective, the authority may acquire such 15 property by condemnation under and pursuant to the law relating 16 to condemnation in this Commonwealth.

17 (b) Under no circumstances shall the authority have the 18 power to condemn property already dedicated to a public use. 19 (c) As a condition precedent to the acquisition by the 20 authority through condemnation of agricultural lands in use for 21 productive agricultural purposes, as classified by the 22 Agricultural Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the authority shall request the 23 24 Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board to determine that 25 there is no reasonable and prudent alternative to the 26 utilization of such lands. The power of the authority to condemn 27 such lands shall be subject to the approval or acquiescence of the Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board in the manner 28 provided by section 306, act of April 29, 1929 (P.L.177, 29 30 No.175), known as "The Administrative Code of 1929," added 19810H0681B0716 - 16 -

December 7, 1979 (P.L.478, No.100). 1 2 Section 208. Authority authorized to contract for the operation 3 of projects. 4 The authority may enter into contracts with public or private 5 electric power supply entities or other parties to operate and maintain the projects which it owns. 6 7 CHAPTER 3 8 FINANCING OF PROJECTS BY THE AUTHORITY 9 Section 301. Authority authorized to finance the construction 10 of projects. 11 The authority is authorized to finance the construction, either in whole or in part, of any new or rehabilitated 12 13 hydroelectric project, throughout the Commonwealth, by any 14 qualified developer. 15 Section 302. Requirements to be met for the financing of the 16 construction of projects. 17 To be qualified for receiving financing from the authority, a 18 potential developer shall: Possess a valid construction license from the 19 (1)20 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or its successor. 21 (2) Certify that it will use the project on a continuous 22 basis during the period of financing by the authority. 23 (3) Certify that it has sufficient consumer demand to 24 use the power and energy produced by the project. 25 Section 303. Authority authorized to finance only projects 26 operated by public and private electric power 27 supply entitles. The authority is authorized to finance only those projects or 28 the indivisible portions thereof, which are owned, constructed 29 30 or operated by public and private electric power supply

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1 entities.

2	CHAPTER 4			
3	FISCAL PROVISIONS			
4	Section 401. Expenses of the authority.			
5	So long as and to the extent that the authority is dependent			
6	upon appropriations for the payment of its expenses, it shall			
7	incur no obligation for salary, office or other expenses prior			
8	to the making of appropriations adequate to meet the same.			
9	Section 402. Notes of the authority.			
10	The authority shall have the power and is hereby authorized			
11	from time to time to issue its negotiable notes in conformity of			
12	applicable provisions of Title 13 Pa.C.S. § 1101 et seq.			
13	(relating to the commercial code) for any corporate purpose and			
14	renew from time to time any notes by the issuance of new notes			
15	whether the notes to be renewed have or have not matured. The			
16	authority may issue notes partly to renew notes or to discharge			
17	other obligations then outstanding and partly for any other			
18	purpose. The notes may be authorized, sold, executed and			
19	delivered in the same manner as bonds. Any resolution or			
20	resolutions authorizing notes of the authority or any issue			
21	thereof may contain any provisions which the authority is			
22	authorized to include in any resolution or resolutions			
23	authorizing bonds of the authority or any issue thereof and the			
24	authority may include in any notes any terms, covenants or			
25	conditions which it is authorized to include in any bonds. All			
26	notes shall be general obligations of the authority payable out			
27	of any of its moneys or revenues subject only to any contractual			
28	rights of the holders of any of its notes or other obligations			
29	then outstanding.			

30 Section 403. Bonds of the authority.

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1 The authority shall have the power and is hereby authorized 2 from time to time to issue its negotiable bonds in conformity 3 with the applicable provisions of the act of July 12, 1972 4 (P.L.781, No.185), known as the "Local Government Unit Debt 5 Act."

6 Section 404. Limitation on the issuance of notes and bonds.
7 (a) The authority shall issue notes and bonds only on a
8 project-by-project basis.

9 (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "project" 10 shall mean facilities constructed or rehabilitated and operated 11 at a single geographical site: Provided, however, That a project 12 may refer to facilities constructed or rehabilitated at 13 different geographical sites so long as they are designed to be 14 operated jointly.

15 Section 405. Investment of moneys of the authority.

Power of the authority to invest all moneys from whatever source derived shall be the same as the power of a borough to invest as exercised by its borough council pursuant to the act of February 1, 1966 (1965 P.L.1656, No.581), known as "The Borough Code."

21 Section 406. Exemption from taxation.

(a) The authority shall be required to pay no taxes or
assessment upon any of the property acquired by it nor upon its
activities in the operation and maintenance of its projects.

(b) The securities or other obligations issued by the
authority, their transfer and the income therefrom, shall at all
times be free from taxation by this Commonwealth.
Section 407. Repayment of Commonwealth appropriations.

All appropriations made by the Commonwealth to the authority 30 shall be treated as advances by the Commonwealth to the 19810H0681B0716 - 19 - authority and shall be repaid to it without interest either out of the proceeds of securities or other obligations issued by the authority for the construction of any project pursuant to the provisions of this act or by the delivery of noninterest bearing obligations of the authority to the Commonwealth for all or any part of such advances or out of excess revenues from such project.

8 Section 408. Effective date.

9 This act shall take effect in 60 days.