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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 1698** Session of  
1983

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INTRODUCED BY D. R. WRIGHT, SHOWERS, MORRIS, MADIGAN, STEWART,  
LLOYD, DeWEESE, GRUITZA, ZWIKL, BLAUM, TIGUE, CAWLEY,  
LIVENGOOD, STUBAN, LUCYK, STEIGHNER, F. E. TAYLOR, OLASZ,  
MANDERINO, CLARK, COLE, RUDY, GRIECO AND COY,  
NOVEMBER 15, 1983

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AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, JUNE 26, 1984

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AN ACT

1 Creating a task force on rural ~~affairs~~ ISSUES; providing powers <—  
2 and duties for the task force; and establishing a ~~termination~~ <—  
3 SUNSET date. <—

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Rural ISSUES <—  
8 Task Force Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Task force." The ~~Interagency~~ Task Force on Rural ~~Affairs~~ <—  
14 ISSUES created by section 3. <—

15 Section 3. Task force.

16 ~~(a) Creation. A joint legislative task force, known as the~~ <—

1 ~~Interagency Task Force on Rural Affairs is created.~~

2 ~~(b) Membership. The task force shall consist of ten members~~  
3 ~~of the General Assembly. Five members shall be appointed by the~~  
4 ~~President pro tempore of the Senate, three members shall be from~~  
5 ~~the majority party and two members shall be from the minority~~  
6 ~~party. Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the~~  
7 ~~House of Representatives, three members shall be from the~~  
8 ~~majority party and two members shall be from the minority party.~~

9 (A) CREATION.--THE TASK FORCE ON RURAL ISSUES IS CREATED <—  
10 WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AS AN ADVISORY BOARD.

11 (B) MEMBERSHIP.--THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF 12 MEMBERS.  
12 SIX MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THREE MEMBERS  
13 SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE,  
14 TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE FROM THE MAJORITY PARTY AND ONE MEMBER  
15 SHALL BE FROM THE MINORITY PARTY. THREE MEMBERS SHALL BE  
16 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TWO  
17 MEMBERS SHALL BE FROM THE MAJORITY PARTY AND ONE MEMBER SHALL BE  
18 FROM THE MINORITY PARTY.

19 (c) Terms.--The term of a member of the task force shall run  
20 from the date of appointment until 30 days after the convening  
21 ~~of the next regular session~~ of the General Assembly IN AN ODD- <—  
22 NUMBERED YEAR and until a successor is appointed and qualified.  
23 ~~Appointments~~ EXCEPT FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS, WHICH SHALL TAKE <—  
24 EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, APPOINTMENTS to the task force shall take  
25 effect 31 days after the convening of the ~~regular session of the~~ <—  
26 General Assembly. A vacancy in the membership shall be filled by  
27 the appointing power making the original appointment for the  
28 unexpired term.

29 (d) Organization.--The INITIAL task force shall organize as <—  
30 soon as possible after THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT AT THE <—

1 CALL OF THE GOVERNOR BY ELECTING FROM ITS MEMBERS A CHAIRMAN,  
2 VICE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY. THEREAFTER, THE TASK FORCE SHALL  
3 REORGANIZE 31 days after the convening of a EACH regular session <—  
4 of the General Assembly, ~~at the call of the Speaker of the House~~ <—  
5 ~~of Representatives GOVERNOR, by electing FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS~~ <—  
6 ~~a chairman, vice chairman and a secretary.~~ IN AN ODD-NUMBERED <—  
7 YEAR. ~~The secretary need not be a member of the committee.~~ <—

8 Section 4. Powers and duties.

9 The powers and duties of the task force shall be to:

10 (1) Serve as a repository of data about rural issues and  
11 problems.

12 (2) Conduct research and encourage research by colleges  
13 and universities, other governmental units and private  
14 organizations.

15 (3) Identify and make recommendations concerning rural  
16 problems WHICH ARE OF AN INTERAGENCY OR INTERGOVERNMENTAL <—  
17 NATURE including, but not limited to, agricultural,  
18 educational, medical, social, transportation, environmental,  
19 economic and land use, that affect the economy and people of  
20 rural areas.

21 (4) Identify ~~deficiencies in governmental services~~ AREAS <—  
22 OF NEED IN RURAL REGIONS and identify the resources of  
23 various FEDERAL, State and local agencies to address ~~the~~ <—  
24 ~~deficiencies~~ THESE NEEDS. <—

25 (5) Develop recommendations on ways to improve  
26 governmental services in rural Pennsylvania, including  
27 drafting legislation when changes in law are recommended.

28 (6) Conduct public hearings to solicit testimony from  
29 public and private agencies, citizens and representatives of  
30 local government on the status of rural services in this

1 Commonwealth.

2 (7) Provide THE GOVERNOR AND the General Assembly with <—  
3 an annual report on the findings, recommendations and  
4 accomplishments of the task force.

5 ~~(8) Employ and fix the compensation of experts,~~ <—  
6 ~~stenographers, typists and assistants as may be deemed~~  
7 ~~necessary to carry out the work of the task force.~~

8 ~~(9)~~ (8) Enter into contracts and make grants in the  
9 execution of its powers and duties.

10 ~~Section 5. Termination.~~ <—

11 ~~Five years from the effective date of this act, the task~~  
12 ~~force shall cease to exist unless otherwise reestablished by the~~  
13 ~~General Assembly.~~

14 SECTION 5. SUNSET. <—

15 THE TASK FORCE SHALL TERMINATE ALL ACTIVITIES AND SHALL GO  
16 OUT OF EXISTENCE DECEMBER 31, 1987, UNLESS OTHERWISE  
17 REESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS  
18 OF THE ACT OF DECEMBER 22, 1981 (P.L.508, NO.142), KNOWN AS THE  
19 SUNSET ACT.

20 SECTION 6. TRANSFER.

21 AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED TO THE INTERAGENCY RURAL AFFAIRS TASK  
22 FORCE BY THE ACT OF JULY 21, 1983 (P.L.603, NO.7A), KNOWN AS THE  
23 SUPPLEMENTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
24 1983-1984, SHALL BE DEEMED AN APPROPRIATION TO THE TASK FORCE  
25 ESTABLISHED BY THIS ACT. ALL PERSONNEL, ALLOCATIONS, EQUIPMENT,  
26 FILES, RECORDS, CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, OBLIGATIONS AND OTHER  
27 MATERIALS WHICH ARE USED, EMPLOYED OR EXPENDED IN CONNECTION  
28 WITH THE POWERS, DUTIES OR FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERAGENCY RURAL  
29 AFFAIRS TASK FORCE ARE HEREBY TRANSFERRED TO THE TASK FORCE  
30 ESTABLISHED BY THIS ACT WITH THE SAME FORCE AND EFFECT AS IF THE

1 APPROPRIATIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO AND SAID ITEMS HAD BEEN THE  
2 PROPERTY OF THE TASK FORCE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND IF SAID  
3 CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS HAD BEEN INCURRED OR  
4 ENTERED INTO BY SAID TASK FORCE.

5 Section 6 7. Effective date.

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6 This act shall take effect immediately.