

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 551

Session of  
1987

INTRODUCED BY PETERSON, MADIGAN, JUBELIRER, LEMMOND, RHOADES,  
SHAFFER, CORMAN AND WILT, MARCH 11, 1987

SENATOR ARMSTRONG, FINANCE, AS AMENDED, APRIL 8, 1987

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Rural Economic Development Program for rural  
2 Pennsylvania; imposing additional powers and duties on the  
3 Department of Commerce, the Department of Education and the  
4 State System of Higher Education; making appropriations; and  
5 making a repeal.

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9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 CHAPTER 1

12 GENERAL PROVISIONS

13 Section 101. Short title.

14 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Rural  
15 Economic Development Program Act.

16 Section 102. Legislative purpose.

17 The purpose of this act is to establish a comprehensive rural  
18 economic development program for Pennsylvania as defined in this  
19 act.

20 CHAPTER 3

21 RURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

22 Section 301. Hardwood utilization.

23 The Department of Commerce shall, through the Northcentral  
24 Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, enter  
25 into a contract with ~~the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group~~ <—  
26 ~~for the purpose of achieving the following objectives:~~

27 ~~(1) Promoting better efficiency of the existing hardwood~~  
28 ~~industries within this Commonwealth.~~

29 ~~(2) Expanding the hardwood industrial base, including~~  
30 ~~the expansion of existing hardwood industries and the~~

1 ~~recruitment of new hardwood industries.~~

2 ~~(3) Expanding the use of hardwood resources, including~~  
3 ~~new product development.~~

4 ~~(4) Insuring cooperation and communication between the~~  
5 ~~hardwood industry and the Department of Agriculture, The~~  
6 ~~Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension, the~~  
7 ~~Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Environmental~~  
8 ~~Resources, the Department of Commerce and the academic and~~  
9 ~~research community.~~ A NONPROFIT CORPORATION IN AN EFFORT TO <—

10 PROMOTE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

11 (1) INSURE THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE VITAL HARDWOOD  
12 INDUSTRY AND THE RENEWABLE HARDWOOD RESOURCE.

13 (2) INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE EXISTING HARDWOOD  
14 INDUSTRIES WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

15 (3) EXPAND THE HARDWOOD INDUSTRIAL BASE BY ENCOURAGING  
16 THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HARDWOOD INDUSTRIES.

17 (4) ENHANCE THE USE OF HARDWOOD RESOURCES THROUGH NEW  
18 PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT.

19 (5) HELP CREATE THE CLIMATE TO ENHANCE FUTURE PRIVATE  
20 AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN THE HARDWOOD INDUSTRY.

21 (6) ENCOURAGE THE HARDWOOD INDUSTRY TO PROVIDE JOBS  
22 WHICH WILL STIMULATE THE OVERALL ECONOMY.

23 (7) INSURE THAT EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION  
24 EXISTS BETWEEN THE HARDWOOD INDUSTRY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
25 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE  
26 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
27 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND INTERESTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
28 COMMUNITIES.

29 Section 302. Brine research and development.

30 (a) Departmental program.--The Department of Commerce shall

1 provide financial assistance to eligible applicants for  
2 qualifying research and development projects to promote the  
3 environmentally safe and economically viable management,  
4 disposal and reuse of brine and other wastewaters produced in  
5 conjunction with oil and gas operations in this Commonwealth.

6 (b) Project grants.--The financial assistance shall be used  
7 for grants by the Advanced Technology Center of Central and  
8 Northern Pennsylvania Inc., to be administered by a project  
9 review committee.

10 (c) Composition of committee.--The project review committee  
11 shall be composed of five members, all of whom shall be  
12 residents of this Commonwealth. Four members shall be either  
13 petroleum engineers, petroleum geologists or experienced  
14 drillers' representatives designated by the Pennsylvania Oil and  
15 Gas Association and Pennsylvania Natural Gas Associates. One  
16 member shall be the Secretary of Environmental Resources or his  
17 designated representative.

18 (d) Committee duties.--The project review committee shall  
19 solicit and review applications for assistance and shall  
20 recommend for approval the type and level of funding for  
21 qualifying projects.

22 (e) Matching grants.--Nonprofit institutions and  
23 organizations and educational institutions shall provide  
24 matching funds or support in an amount equal to no less than 15%  
25 of the total project cost. Business enterprises and other  
26 private persons shall provide matching funds or support in an  
27 amount equal to no less than 50% of the total project cost.

28 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section the term "research  
29 and development project" means an activity entirely or largely  
30 conducted in Pennsylvania relating to:

1 (1) Basic and applied research concerning the  
2 management, handling, disposal and reuse of brine and  
3 wastewaters produced in association with the production of  
4 oil and gas in this Commonwealth.

5 (2) Demonstration of appropriately scaled, innovative or  
6 commercially unproven technology which ~~facilities~~ FACILITATES ←  
7 the management, handling, disposal and reuse of oil and gas  
8 production brines and which is economically viable for the  
9 small independent oil and gas producers in this Commonwealth.

10 (3) Activities which remove obstacles to the management,  
11 handling, disposal and reuse of brine and wastewaters  
12 produced in association with the production of oil and gas in  
13 this Commonwealth.

14 Section 303. Rural marketing and promotion.

15 (a) Program.--The Department of Commerce shall establish a  
16 program for the development of a rural marketing plan and  
17 promotion of industries, available commercial and industrial  
18 sites and products indigenous to the area covered by local  
19 development districts. The marketing plan shall be developed  
20 through cooperative efforts of existing economic development  
21 groups within the region served by the local development  
22 district and shall include a computerized inventory of available  
23 industrial and commercial sites and supporting infrastructure  
24 for each site.

25 (b) Administration.--The Department of Commerce shall  
26 administer the program by providing grants to Appalachian Local  
27 Development Districts, not to exceed \$100,000 per district, for  
28 the development of the marketing plan. Decisions concerning the  
29 priority of a grant shall first consider those areas with the  
30 highest level of unemployment and the extent of the rural area

1 served.

2 Section 304. Rural tourism.

3 (a) Department grants.--The Department of Commerce shall  
4 provide grants to Appalachian Local Development Districts, not  
5 to exceed \$30,000 per district, for the development of a  
6 regional tourism brochure and map designating the historic sites  
7 and tourist attractions within the region served by the  
8 district. This information shall be developed through  
9 cooperative efforts of existing tourism promotion and  
10 development agencies within the area served by the district.

11 ~~(b) Regional centers. Each local development district shall~~ <—  
12 ~~establish a regional tourism development center as a component~~  
13 ~~of the economic development program of the local development~~  
14 ~~district.~~

15 (B) REGIONAL TOURISM PROGRAMS.--EACH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT <—  
16 DISTRICT SHALL PROVIDE A REGIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
17 WHICH WILL SERVE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
18 PLAN WITHIN THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

19 Section 305. Feasibility studies.

20 The Department of Commerce shall make grants to the  
21 appropriate local development districts to conduct the  
22 following:

23 (1) A feasibility study conducted by the local  
24 development district or the county or any designee thereof,  
25 to develop a regional tourism development and investment  
26 strategy to determine the economic feasibility of a  
27 recreational complex within ~~the Allegheny National Forest~~ <—  
28 WARREN AND MCKEAN COUNTIES. <—

29 (2) A feasibility study conducted by the local  
30 development district or the county or any designee thereof IN <—

1 COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES,  
2 to develop a regional tourism development and investment  
3 strategy to determine the economic feasibility of a PROPOSED <—  
4 recreational complex ON PRIVATE LANDS adjacent to the Cook <—  
5 Forest State Park.

6 CHAPTER 5

7 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

8 Section 501. Educational development programs.

9 The Department of Education shall enter into purchase of  
10 service contracts with the following institutions:

11 (1) The University of Pittsburgh, Titusville Campus, for  
12 the implementation of the instructional and student  
13 development programs established for, but not limited to,  
14 rural students coming from educationally disadvantaged  
15 backgrounds.

16 (2) The Warren-Forest Higher Education Council for the  
17 establishing of rural postsecondary services in Warren and  
18 Forest Counties.

19 (3) The University of Pittsburgh, Bradford Campus, to  
20 fund Elk County Higher Education Council.

21 (4) The Pennsylvania State University Cooperative  
22 Extension for expansion of existing rural leadership training  
23 programs.

24 Section 502. State System of Higher Education.

25 The State System of Higher Education shall develop a contract  
26 with Mansfield University of the State System of Higher  
27 Education for the Mansfield University Rural Services Institute  
28 to develop an education outreach program providing educational  
29 tools geared to rural community needs.

30 CHAPTER 7

1 APPROPRIATIONS

2 Section 701. Appropriation to the Department of Commerce.

3 The sum of \$1,025,000, or as much thereof as may be  
4 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Commerce  
5 for the fiscal year July 1, 1986, to June 30, 1987, to carry out  
6 the provisions of Chapter 3. This appropriation shall be  
7 allocated as follows:

8 (1) The sum of \$200,000 is allocated for purposes of the  
9 hardwood utilization program.

10 (2) The sum of \$100,000 is allocated for purposes of the  
11 brine research and development program.

12 (3) The sum of \$500,000 is allocated for purposes of the  
13 rural marketing and industrial promotion program.

14 (4) The sum of \$175,000 is allocated for purposes of the  
15 rural tourism program.

16 (5) The sum of \$25,000 is allocated for purposes of the <—  
17 ~~Allegheny National Forest feasibility study.~~ AN ECONOMIC <—  
18 FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A RECREATIONAL COMPLEX WITHIN WARREN AND  
19 MCKEAN COUNTIES.

20 (6) The sum of \$25,000 is allocated for purposes of the  
21 ~~Cook Forest State Park feasibility study.~~ ECONOMIC <—  
22 FEASIBILITY STUDY IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
23 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF A PROPOSED RECREATIONAL COMPLEX ON  
24 PRIVATE LANDS ADJACENT TO THE COOK FOREST STATE PARK.

25 Section 702. Appropriation to the Department of Education.

26 The sum of \$250,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,  
27 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education for the  
28 fiscal year July 1, 1986, to June 30, 1987, to carry out the  
29 provisions of section 501. This appropriation shall be allocated  
30 as follows:



1 (1) The sum of \$100,000 shall be allocated to the  
2 student education development program at Titusville Campus.

3 (2) The sum of \$100,000 shall be allocated to the rural  
4 postsecondary education program in Warren and Forest  
5 Counties.

6 (3) The sum of \$35,000 shall be allocated for the  
7 funding of the Elk County Higher Education Council.

8 (4) The sum of \$15,000 shall be allocated for the  
9 expansion of the rural leadership training program.

10 Section 703. Appropriation to the State System of Higher  
11 Education.

12 The sum of \$100,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,  
13 is hereby appropriated to the State System of Higher Education  
14 for the fiscal year July 1, 1986, to June 30, 1987, to carry out  
15 the provisions of section 502.

16 Section 704. Nonlapsing.

17 The appropriations made in sections 701, 702 and 703 shall be  
18 continuing appropriations and shall not lapse until June 30,  
19 1988.

20 CHAPTER 9

21 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

22 Section 901. Repeal.

23 The appropriation in the amount of \$2,750,000 to the  
24 Department of Commerce for Rural Economic Development in section  
25 208 of the act of July 1, 1986 (P.L.1776, No.5A), known as the <—  
26 General Appropriation Act of 1986, is repealed insofar as that  
27 appropriation exceeds the sum of \$1,375,000. THE SUM OF MONEY <—  
28 REPEALED BY THIS SECTION IS REAPPROPRIATED IN SECTIONS 701, 702  
29 AND 703 OF THIS ACT.

30 Section 902. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately.