

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 342 Session of  
1989

INTRODUCED BY DORR, CAPPABIANCA, SERAFINI, GODSHALL, PRESTON,  
HAGARTY, BURD, LINTON, G. SNYDER, GEIST, HALUSKA, CLYMER,  
NOYE, FOX, DISTLER, MORRIS, HERMAN, SEMMEL, S. H. SMITH,  
REBER, PHILLIPS, BUSH, ANGSTADT, CORNELL, ALLEN, LANGTRY,  
LETTERMAN, BIRMELIN, HECKLER, FLICK, FARMER, JOHNSON, PERZEL,  
BILLOW, BARLEY, BUNT, D. W. SNYDER, MERRY, SCHULER, STAIRS,  
GLADECK, STUBAN, E. Z. TAYLOR, TRICH, HERSHEY, VROON,  
BELFANTI, CIVERA, RAYMOND, McVERRY, LASHINGER, ROBBINS AND  
OLASZ, FEBRUARY 8, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, FEBRUARY 8, 1989

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled  
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the  
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the  
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative  
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,  
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or  
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or  
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative  
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and  
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative  
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,  
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the  
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive  
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of  
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and  
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,  
17 and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the  
18 number and compensation of the deputies and all other  
19 assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and  
20 commissions shall be determined," further providing for the  
21 powers and duties of the Board of the Ben Franklin  
22 Partnership Fund.

23 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

24 hereby enacts as follows:

1       Section 1.   Section 2503-B of the act of April 9, 1929  
2   (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929,  
3   amended December 6, 1982 (P.L.774, No.223) and December 15, 1988  
4   (P.L.   , No.152), is amended to read:

5       Section 2503-B.   Duties and Powers of the Board of the Ben  
6   Franklin Partnership Fund.--(a)   The Board of the Ben Franklin  
7   Partnership Fund is authorized to promote, stimulate and  
8   encourage (i) basic and applied scientific research and  
9   development in Pennsylvania and (ii) scientific and  
10   technological education in Pennsylvania, which may reasonably be  
11   expected to advance the Commonwealth's economic growth and  
12   welfare. In addition, the board shall, upon request, provide  
13   advice to the Governor and the executive agencies concerning  
14   scientific, technological and engineering matters, which relate  
15   to the economic growth and the health, safety and welfare of the  
16   Commonwealth and its citizens; shall establish a program to  
17   assist Pennsylvania small businesses to enter into exporting  
18   activities; and may establish advanced technology centers which  
19   shall serve as university-based consortiums between business,  
20   universities and government to provide advanced technology  
21   research and development, training, education and related  
22   activities which show significant potential in diversification  
23   of Pennsylvania's economy and the State's economic growth.

24       (b)   With the approval of the Governor, the board is  
25   authorized to enter into mutually satisfactory contracts,  
26   agreements or grants with educational institutions, nonprofit  
27   institutions and organizations, business enterprises and other  
28   persons concerned with scientific and technological research,  
29   and development in the Commonwealth, as well as any State or  
30   Federal agency, to foster and support scientific and

1 technological research, development, exporting, education and  
2 promotion of applied advanced technology activities. The board  
3 may, subject to the approval of the Governor, make grants to  
4 educational institutions, nonprofit institutions and  
5 organizations, and other persons for the same purposes. The  
6 board may sponsor and conduct conferences and studies, collect  
7 and disseminate information, and issue periodic reports relating  
8 to scientific and technological research, development, and  
9 education in the Commonwealth, including grants for Governor's  
10 chairs to Pennsylvania colleges and universities in the field of  
11 new materials; maintain registers and inventories of scientific  
12 and technological personnel and facilities, including but not  
13 limited to scientific libraries and data centers. It may receive  
14 gifts, grants, bequests or devises from any source, including  
15 funds from the Federal government.

16 (c) The board may enter into a matching grant program,  
17 involving consortiums of college or university and private  
18 sector organizations for the purposes of establishing, operating  
19 and promoting advanced technology centers throughout the  
20 Commonwealth. Such centers shall receive no more than fifty per  
21 centum (50%) of their financial support from this board.  
22 Applicants for funds provided under this section shall secure  
23 financial commitments from profit and nonprofit groups and  
24 organizations, including the Federal government or local  
25 political subdivisions and shall be required to submit  
26 applications in accordance with policies and criteria issued by  
27 the board. The board shall utilize adequate financial controls,  
28 including a program of audits, to implement the matching grant  
29 program. Such centers shall utilize to the extent possible,  
30 existing or new private businesses operating or willing to

1 operate in the fields of expertise needed to accomplish the  
2 purposes of the center. Eligible purposes which the board may  
3 fund under this matching grant program include, but are not  
4 limited to:

5 (1) Development and strengthening of joint research and  
6 development efforts including facilities for advanced  
7 technologies activities, equipment, personnel, land and related  
8 activities, which will lead to new technologies which will  
9 create or preserve jobs.

10 (2) Providing training and curriculum development related to  
11 advanced technology in order to provide a skilled work force to  
12 secure employment in advanced technology industries.

13 (3) Technical assistance and technology transfer activities  
14 on an areawide or Statewide basis to transfer research and  
15 development activities into the marketplace.

16 (4) Assistance through small business incubators, including,  
17 but not limited to space, services and technical assistance.

18 (5) Market development, feasibility studies and other  
19 activities related to increasing jobs in advanced technology  
20 industries.

21 (6) Staff support for advanced technology councils or other  
22 mechanisms to encourage labor, business, university and  
23 governmental linkages in promoting advanced technology  
24 industrial diversification.

25 (7) Facilitate establishment of technology parks, which will  
26 serve as locations for facilities devoted to research and  
27 development and technology-intensive light manufacturing.

28 (8) Assistance for small businesses in Pennsylvania which  
29 desire to export their products.

30 (d) The Ben Franklin Partnership Fund, together with its

1 statutory functions and duties, shall terminate and go out of  
2 existence on December 31, 1998, unless reestablished or  
3 continued by the General Assembly. Evaluation and review,  
4 termination, reestablishment and continuation of the agency  
5 shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the act of  
6 December 22, 1981 (P.L.508, No.142), known as the "Sunset Act."  
7       Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.