
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2293

Session of
1990

INTRODUCED BY BOWLEY, DeWEESE, BROUJOS, YANDRISEVITS, MORRIS,
VEON, JADLOWIEC, MERRY, D. F. CLARK, KOSINSKI, BELARDI,
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CARLSON, HECKLER, STAIRS, LAUGHLIN, TRELLO, COLAIZZO AND
FARGO, FEBRUARY 12, 1990

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, FEBRUARY 12, 1990

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment of a Timber Bridge Program
2 within the Department of Transportation.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Timber Bridge
7 Act.

8 Section 2. Findings.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) This Commonwealth is approximately 58% forested with
11 over 16.8 million acres of commercial forest land. This
12 renewable natural resource provides a source of valuable
13 timber, habitat for wildlife, protection for watersheds and
14 outdoor recreation opportunities.

15 (2) The forest products industry is a vital segment of

1 this Commonwealth's manufacturing sector with over 1,600
2 companies employing approximately 82,000 people with an
3 annual payroll of over \$1 billion.

4 (3) The use of Pennsylvania hardwoods in the
5 construction of State highway and non-State highway bridges
6 is economically beneficial to this Commonwealth and local
7 municipalities.

8 Section 3. Definitions.

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

12 "Department." The Department of Transportation of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Timber bridge." A bridge which meets design specifications
15 as approved by the department and uses in its construction
16 hardwoods indigenous to this Commonwealth.

17 Section 4. Timber Bridge Program.

18 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established in the
19 department a Timber Bridge Program for the purposes of research,
20 design, construction, inspection monitoring and maintenance of
21 hardwood timber bridges and other hardwood structures used to
22 improve highway transportation or safety.

23 (b) Powers and duties.--The department shall have the
24 following powers and duties:

25 (1) To conduct research projects related to the
26 engineering qualities of glued-laminated and hardwood-steel
27 composite timber bridges.

28 (2) To develop design standards and specifications for
29 the use of hardwood timber bridges.

30 (3) To construct timber bridges on State and non-State

1 highways where they are appropriate and cost-effective.

2 (4) To develop an inspection manual to be used by timber
3 bridge field inspectors.

4 (5) To regularly inspect and monitor timber bridges
5 constructed by the department on State and non-State
6 highways.

7 (6) To develop an information manual on the correct
8 maintenance procedures for timber bridges.

9 (7) To identify those State highway and non-State
10 highway bridges which may be suitable for replacement with a
11 timber bridge.

12 (8) To investigate the feasibility of using hardwoods in
13 other highway improvement structures such as retaining walls,
14 guide rails and signposts.

15 Section 5. Non-State timber bridge grants.

16 The department shall provide 90% of the total cost of design
17 and construction of timber bridges on non-State highways with
18 municipalities providing the remaining 10%. In order to be
19 eligible for the grant under this program, the replacement
20 bridge must be a timber bridge and the bridge must be itemized
21 in the act of December 8, 1982 (P.L.848, No.235), known as the
22 Highway-Railroad and Highway Bridge Capital Budget Act for 1982-
23 1983.

24 Section 6. Reports.

25 The department shall make a biennial written report to the
26 General Assembly on the status of the Timber Bridge Program in
27 this Commonwealth.

28 Section 7. Rules and regulations.

29 The department shall have the power to promulgate rules and
30 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

1 Section 8. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect immediately.