
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 5

Special Session No. 2 of
1995-1996

INTRODUCED BY BUXTON, COLAFELLA, MICOZZIE, BARLEY, DeWEESE,
STERN, LLOYD, FEESE, ROBINSON, DEMPSEY, TRAVAGLIO, BAKER,
SHANER, L. I. COHEN, PESCI, ARMSTRONG, CURRY, TRUE,
GIGLIOTTI, HERMAN, HALUSKA, HASTE, VEON, MAJOR, STETLER,
FAIRCHILD, TRELLO, FLICK, GEORGE, FARGO, COLAIZZO, NICKOL,
MELIO, STRITTMATTER, CLARK, MARKOSEK, MASLAND, SAINATO,
STAIRS, ITKIN, SEMMEL, DERMODY, HESS, TIGUE, PHILLIPS,
CAWLEY, GEIST, MUNDY, CHADWICK, LUCYK, ALLEN, SURRA, CIVERA,
LEVDANSKY, STISH, BOSCOLA, O'BRIEN, WALKO, MCGILL, JOSEPHS,
BROWNE, BELFANTI, RAYMOND, DeLUCA, BROWN, READSHAW, BUNT,
MAYERNIK, MERRY, M. COHEN, SCHULER, MYERS, REBER, COY, ZUG,
DALEY, STEIL, CAPPABIANCA, RUBLEY, VAN HORNE, McCALL AND
DENT, MARCH 13, 1996

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, MARCH 13, 1996

AN ACT

1 Directing the Insurance Commissioner to establish and administer
2 a flood insurance education and information program.

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 Flood
7 Insurance Education and Information Act.

8 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) Flooding of large areas of this Commonwealth like
11 that which occurred during the winter of 1996 destroys
12 private and public property, adversely affects means of

1 livelihood and economic resources and disrupts commerce,
2 communication, utility and governmental services.

3 (2) Damage to property caused by flooding is ordinarily
4 excluded from coverage under standard homeowners insurance
5 policies and must be purchased separately.

6 (3) Flood insurance coverage may be purchased for any
7 insurable property, even if it is not located in a flood
8 plain.

9 (4) Flood insurance may be purchased to cover almost any
10 building and its contents, including rental property and
11 condominiums.

12 (5) Despite the advantages of purchasing flood
13 insurance, many Commonwealth residents sustained significant
14 property loss during the floods of 1996 because they did not
15 have flood insurance protection.

16 (6) A comprehensive and coordinated plan to educate
17 Commonwealth residents as to the advantages and availability
18 of flood insurance coverage is essential to ensuring that
19 economic losses such as those sustained in the floods of 1996
20 do not recur.

21 Section 3. Flood insurance education and information.

22 (a) Program established.--The Insurance Commissioner shall
23 authorize and establish a flood insurance consumer education
24 plan to encourage residents of this Commonwealth to purchase and
25 maintain flood insurance focusing on persons who have suffered
26 previous flood damage. The plan shall be implemented throughout
27 this Commonwealth and shall include such information as the
28 Insurance Commissioner deems appropriate.

29 (b) Annual reports.--No later than March 1 of each year, the
30 Insurance Commissioner shall present a report to the General

1 Assembly detailing the plan and its implementation and progress
2 and recommendations for further promotion of the sale of flood
3 insurance. The report shall include the number of Commonwealth
4 residents who have purchased flood insurance during the
5 preceding year, and comparisons to prior years.

6 Section 4. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect immediately.