

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1659 Session of  
2003

INTRODUCED BY CIVERA, BARRAR, CRAHALLA, CURRY, DALEY, FABRIZIO,  
HENNESSEY, HORSEY, MARKOSEK, MYERS, NAILOR, PICKETT, PRESTON,  
RUBLEY, SEMMEL, TIGUE, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 18, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JUNE 18, 2003

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 27, 1996 (P.L.403, No.58), entitled "An  
2 act to enhance community and economic development in this  
3 Commonwealth by restructuring certain administrative  
4 functions and entities; changing the name of the Department  
5 of Commerce to the Department of Community and Economic  
6 Development; transferring functions of the Department of  
7 Community Affairs into the Department of Community and  
8 Economic Development and other agencies; providing for a  
9 Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs and Development in the  
10 Department of Community and Economic Development;  
11 establishing the Center for Local Government Services and the  
12 Local Government Advisory Committee; establishing the Small  
13 Business Advocacy Council; conferring powers and duties on  
14 the Legislative Reference Bureau; and making repeals,"  
15 providing for a Deputy Secretary for Local Government  
16 Services in the Department of Community and Economic  
17 Development.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
19 hereby enacts as follows:

20 Section 1. Section 301(b) and (c) of the act of June 27,  
21 1996 (P.L.403, No.58), known as the Community and Economic  
22 Development Enhancement Act, are amended to read:

23 Section 301. To Department of Community and Economic  
24 Development.

25 \* \* \*

1 (b) Functions to be consolidated.--The functions transferred  
2 to the department shall be consolidated within the department  
3 into a bureau, division, section or other organizational entity  
4 devoted to community and economic development and into the  
5 Center for Local Government Services under subsection (c). The  
6 Governor shall appoint a Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs  
7 and Development and a Deputy Secretary for Local Government  
8 Services. The [deputy secretary] Deputy Secretary for Community  
9 Affairs and Development shall have the powers and perform the  
10 functions and duties transferred to the department in subsection  
11 (a), except for those functions and duties of the Center for  
12 Local Government Services, as well as other such functions and  
13 duties authorized by the Governor. The Deputy Secretary for  
14 Local Government Services shall be responsible for the  
15 administration of the Center for Local Government Services as  
16 well as such other functions and duties authorized by the  
17 Governor, including the necessary staff complement and funding  
18 sources to adequately carry out the responsibilities of  
19 administering the Governor's Executive Order 99-1 as it relates  
20 to land use issues. Such staffing shall include those personnel  
21 presently assigned to land use functions in the department's  
22 regional offices.

23 (c) Center for Local Government Services established.--A  
24 Center for Local Government Services shall be established and  
25 maintained in the department to serve as the link between the  
26 Commonwealth and local governments. The center shall be a  
27 provider of services to local governments, shall serve as the  
28 point of contact for local governments on issues and problems of  
29 local concern, shall be responsible for coordinating State  
30 program resources in response to local issues and problems and

1 shall establish a systematic process for addressing local issues  
2 and problems involving the resources of more than a single  
3 agency. In carrying out its responsibilities, the center shall  
4 use and have access to the information, services, functions and  
5 other resources transferred under subsection (a). The center  
6 shall, when authorized by the Governor, use and have access to  
7 any other information, services, functions and other resources  
8 in the possession of executive agencies under the Governor's  
9 jurisdiction deemed necessary to the fulfillment of its  
10 responsibilities. The center shall provide to local governments,  
11 at no cost, information on purchase contracts for materials,  
12 supplies and equipment entered into by the Department of General  
13 Services in which local governments may participate pursuant to  
14 the provisions of section 2403(h) of The Administrative Code of  
15 1929. The Deputy Secretary for [Community Affairs and  
16 Development shall be responsible for the administration of the  
17 center and] Local Government Services shall report in writing to  
18 the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on the activities of the  
19 center. The center shall have permanent staff both in its  
20 headquarters as well as in the regional offices of the Governor  
21 and shall additionally make a toll-free telephone number  
22 available to local governments to assist the center in  
23 accommodating requests for assistance. Funding for the center  
24 shall be provided by the department.

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26 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.