

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1718 Session of  
2003

INTRODUCED BY NICKOL, EACHUS, VANCE, DeWEESE, S. H. SMITH, VEON  
AND MACKERETH, JUNE 26, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
JUNE 26, 2003

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 26, 2001 (P.L.755, No.77), entitled "An  
2 act establishing a special fund and account for money  
3 received by the Commonwealth from the Master Settlement  
4 Agreement with tobacco manufacturers; providing for home and  
5 community-based care, for tobacco use prevention and  
6 cessation efforts, for Commonwealth universal research  
7 enhancement, for hospital uncompensated care, for health  
8 investment insurance, for medical assistance for workers with  
9 disabilities, for regional biotechnology research centers,  
10 for the HealthLink Program, for community-based health care  
11 assistance programs, for PACE reinstatement and PACENET  
12 expansion, for medical education loan assistance and for  
13 percentage allocation and appropriation of moneys," imposing  
14 limitations on supersedeas bond requirements.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. The act of June 26, 2001 (P.L.755, No.77), known  
18 as the Tobacco Settlement Act, is amended by adding a section to  
19 read:

20 Section 309. Limits on supersedeas bond requirements.

21 (a) General rule.--Except as otherwise provided in  
22 subsection (b), in civil litigation under any legal theory  
23 involving a signatory, a successor of a signatory or an

1 affiliate of a signatory to the Master Settlement Agreement, the  
2 supersedeas bond to be furnished during the pendency of all  
3 appeals or discretionary reviews of any judgment granting legal,  
4 equitable or any other form of relief in order to stay the  
5 execution thereon during the entire course of any appellate  
6 reviews shall be set in accordance with applicable laws or court  
7 rules provided that the total supersedeas bond that is required  
8 of all appellants collectively shall not exceed \$25,000,000,  
9 regardless of the value of the judgment.

10 (b) Exception.--Notwithstanding subsection (a), if an  
11 appellee proves by a preponderance of the evidence that an  
12 appellant is dissipating assets outside the ordinary course of  
13 business to avoid payment of a judgment, the court may enter an  
14 order that:

15 (1) Is necessary to protect the appellee.

16 (2) Requires the appellant to post a supersedeas bond in  
17 an amount up to the total amount of the judgment.

18 Section 2. This act shall apply to any action pending on the  
19 effective date of this act.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.