

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1224 Session of
2006INTRODUCED BY WENGER, WAUGH, WONDERLING, PUNT AND COSTA,
JUNE 19, 2006

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, JUNE 27, 2006

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 15, 1945 (P.L.547, No.217), entitled, as
2 amended, "An act relating to the conservation of soil, water
3 and related natural resources and land use practices
4 contributing to soil wastage and soil erosion; providing for
5 the organization of the various counties into conservation
6 districts; the appointment of their officers and employes;
7 and prescribing their powers and duties; creating the State
8 Conservation Commission in the Department of Environmental
9 Resources and fixing its powers and duties relative to the
10 administration of this act; providing financial and legal
11 assistance to such conservation districts and the commission;
12 and authorizing county governing bodies to make
13 appropriations thereto; providing for disposition and
14 operation of existing districts; and repealing existing
15 laws," further providing for Commonwealth appropriations.

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

18 Section 1. Section 14 of the act of May 15, 1945 (P.L.547,
19 No.217), known as the Conservation District Law, reenacted and
20 amended December 19, 1984 (P.L.1125, No.221), is amended to
21 read:

22 Section 14. [Commonwealth Appropriations.--] Funding.--(a)
23 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth shall appropriate from
24 time to time as may be necessary, moneys out of the General Fund

1 [to the State Conservation Commission for its use in
2 administering] to administer the provisions of this act.

3 (b) There is created a special fund in the State Treasury to
4 be known as the Conservation District Fund. State funds
5 appropriated for assistance to local conservation districts
6 shall be deposited in the fund. All money in the fund and the
7 interest it accrues are appropriated to the commission for
8 allocation to the conservation districts for activities
9 necessary to meet the requirements of this act.

10 (c) The fund may be supplemented by moneys received from the
11 following sources:

12 (1) State funds appropriated to conservation districts or
13 the commission.

14 (2) Federal funds appropriated to conservation districts,
15 the commission or other agencies of the Commonwealth.

16 (3) Programs delegated to or contracted to conservation
17 districts by any agency of the Commonwealth.

18 (4) Proceeds from the sale of any bonds made available to
19 the commission.

20 (5) Gifts and other contributions from public and private
21 sources.

22 (6) Any fees collected by the commission.

23 (d) The commission shall have the duty and authority to do
24 all of the following:

25 (1) Adopt criteria and procedures for the allocation of
26 moneys in the fund.

27 (2) Create accounts within the fund for the purposes of
28 providing funding for the programs authorized by this act.

29 (3) Provide for provisions to make advance payments and
30 reimbursements to conservation districts for approved purposes.

1 (4) Make payments to conservation districts or any agency
2 designated by the commission in accordance with the requirements
3 of the agency ~~for~~ FROM which the funds originated. <—

4 (e) Funds allocated to conservation districts shall be used
5 for costs associated with implementing programs delegated or
6 contracted by the Commonwealth, environmental education,
7 programs to protect the environment approved by the commission
8 or for activities necessary to meet the requirements of this
9 act.

10 (f) For the purposes of this section, a conservation
11 district shall be exempt from State contracting guidelines and
12 eligible for advance funding.

13 (g) The fund shall not be subject to 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 37
14 Subch. C (relating to judicial computer system).

15 (h) The money in the fund shall only be used for the
16 purposes authorized by this act and shall not be transferred or
17 diverted to any other purpose.

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