

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 110 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY VITALI, SCAVELLO, BENNINGTON, BISHOP, CALTAGIRONE,
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McILVAINE SMITH, STABACK, STURLA, SURRA, TANGRETTI,
R. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WALKO, WANSACZ, WATSON, WHEATLEY,
YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, FEBRUARY 1, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
FEBRUARY 1, 2007

AN ACT

1 Providing for a report on potential global warming impacts and
2 economic opportunities for the Commonwealth, for duties of
3 the Department of Environmental Protection, for an inventory
4 of greenhouse gases, for creation of stakeholder process, for
5 a voluntary registry of greenhouse gas emissions and for a
6 climate change action plan.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
11 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act.

12 Section 2. Definitions.

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

1 "Baseline." A level of greenhouse gas emissions against
2 which future emissions are measured.

3 "Carbon sequestration." The long-term storage of carbon or
4 carbon dioxide in forests, soils, oceans or underground in
5 depleted oil and gas reservoirs, coal seams and saline
6 aquifers.

7 "Cobenefits." The economic, social, environmental, public
8 health and other benefits of global warming policies that are
9 independent of any benefits for reducing or mitigating global
10 warming.

11 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of
12 the Commonwealth.

13 "Global warming." Any increase in the earth's temperature
14 due, at least in part, to emissions of greenhouse gases
15 associated with human activities, including, but not limited to,
16 the burning of fossil fuels, biomass burning, cement
17 manufacture, agriculture, deforestation and other land-use
18 changes.

19 "Greenhouse gases" or "GHGs." Gases in the earth's
20 atmosphere that absorb and reemit infrared radiation, including
21 carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, hydrofluorocarbons,
22 perfluorocarbons and chlorofluorocarbons.

23 Section 3. Report on potential global warming impact in and
24 economic opportunities for the Commonwealth.

25 (a) Report required.--The department shall prepare and
26 publish a report on the potential impact of global warming and
27 climate change in this Commonwealth. The report shall identify
28 the following:

29 (1) Scientific predictions regarding changes in
30 temperature and precipitation patterns and amounts in this

1 Commonwealth that could result from global warming.

2 (2) The potential impact of global warming on human
3 health, the economy and the management of economic risk,
4 forests, wildlife, fisheries, recreation, agriculture and
5 tourism in this Commonwealth and any significant
6 uncertainties about the impact of global warming.

7 (3) Economic opportunities for this Commonwealth created
8 by the potential need for alternative sources of energy,
9 climate-related technologies, services and strategies; carbon
10 sequestration technologies; capture and utilization of
11 fugitive greenhouse gas emissions from any source and other
12 mitigation strategies.

13 (b) Cooperation.--In preparing the report, the department
14 may consult with Federal and other state agencies, academic
15 institutions and stakeholders.

16 (c) Deadline.--This report shall be completed, published and
17 distributed to the General Assembly and made available to the
18 public in printed form and on the Internet within six months of
19 the effective date of this act and shall be revised every three
20 years thereafter.

21 Section 4. Greenhouse gases inventory.

22 (a) Inventory required.--In consultation with stakeholders,
23 the department shall annually create an inventory of GHGs
24 emitted in this Commonwealth by all sources. This inventory
25 shall establish GHG emission trends and the relative
26 contribution of major sectors, including, but not limited to,
27 the transportation, electricity generation, industrial,
28 commercial, mineral and natural resources, agricultural and
29 domestic sectors.

30 (b) Baseline.--The department shall establish a baseline of

1 GHG emissions that it shall use to project future GHG emissions
2 in this Commonwealth in the absence of government intervention.

3 (c) Coordination with action plan.--The inventory and
4 baseline shall be presented to the Governor and stakeholders
5 every three years as part of the GHG plan of action required
6 under section 7.

7 Section 5. Creation of stakeholder process.

8 (a) Appointment.--Within 30 days of the effective date of
9 this act, the Governor shall appoint stakeholders who shall
10 advise the department about implementation of the provisions of
11 this act. The stakeholders shall be appointed on account of
12 their expertise regarding global warming and climate change
13 issues. Stakeholders shall be chosen from scientific, business
14 and industry, environmental, social, outdoor and sporting,
15 faith-based and labor communities, along with other interested
16 parties.

17 (b) Meetings.--Within 60 days of the effective date of this
18 act, the department shall call the first meeting of the
19 stakeholders and shall establish a schedule for regular meetings
20 with stakeholders about implementation of the provisions of this
21 act.

22 Section 6. Voluntary greenhouse gas registry.

23 Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
24 department shall create a voluntary greenhouse gas registry
25 through which interested businesses, governments, institutions
26 and other entities can record any reductions in greenhouse gas
27 emissions or any avoided emissions of greenhouse gas emissions
28 that are achieved in the absence of any government regulation.
29 The department shall develop rules and criteria for the
30 operation of the registry and shall create a site on the

1 Internet for the public to examine a current list of registrants
2 and emission reductions and avoidances.

3 Section 7. Climate change action plan.

4 (a) Action plan required.--Within one year from the
5 effective date of this act and every three years thereafter, the
6 department shall, in consultation with the stakeholders, submit
7 to the Governor for approval a climate change action plan that:

8 (1) Identifies GHG emission trends and baselines in this
9 Commonwealth.

10 (2) Evaluates cost-effective strategies for reducing GHG
11 emissions from various sectors in this Commonwealth.

12 (3) Establishes specific reduction targets for overall
13 GHG emissions in this Commonwealth.

14 (4) Identifies costs, benefits and cobenefits of GHG
15 reduction strategies recommended by the GHG action plan.

16 (5) Identifies areas of agreement and disagreement among
17 stakeholders about the GHG action plan.

18 (6) Recommends to the General Assembly legislative
19 changes necessary to implement the GHG action plan.

20 (b) Approval of Governor.--Within 90 days from receipt of
21 the GHG action plan, the Governor shall approve the GHG action
22 plan. In executing his approval, the Governor shall have the
23 option to amend the GHG action plan.

24 (c) Publication.--The approved GHG action plan shall be
25 published and distributed to the General Assembly and made
26 available to the public in printed form and on the Internet
27 within 30 days of the approval of the plan.

28 Section 8. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect immediately.