

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 709 Session of 2007

INTRODUCED BY FOLMER, GORDNER, FERLO, RAFFERTY AND EARLL, MARCH 29, 2007

SENATOR REGOLA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AS AMENDED, APRIL 18, 2007

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), entitled
2 "An act concerning townships of the first class; amending,
3 revising, consolidating, and changing the law relating
4 thereto," further providing for elected officers enumerated,
5 for vacancies in general, for the corporate power of first
6 class townships being vested in the board of township
7 commissioners, for elected officers in townships of the first
8 class and for additions and revisions to duplicates; and
9 making related repeals.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 228 of the act of June 24, 1931
13 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code,
14 reenacted and amended May 27, 1949 (P.L.1955, No.569), is
15 repealed:

16 [Section 228. Election of Township Assessor and Assistant
17 Township Assessor in New Townships.--At such municipal election,
18 one township assessor shall be elected for a term of four years
19 and one assistant township assessor for a term of two years.
20 Thereafter the terms of such township assessor and assistant
21 township assessor shall be four years from the first Monday of

1 January succeeding their respective elections.

2 This section shall not apply to townships in counties having
3 county boards for the assessment and revision of taxes where
4 assessors, under existing laws, are appointed.]

5 Section 2. Section 503 of the act is amended to read:

6 Section 503. Elected Officers Enumerated.--The electors of
7 each township shall elect (a) at least five township
8 commissioners, (b) one township treasurer, [(c) except as
9 hereinafter otherwise provided, one township assessor and one
10 assistant township assessor, and (d)] and (c) except as
11 otherwise hereinafter provided, three elected auditors or one
12 appointed auditor, or one controller where such office has been
13 established. All elected township officers shall be registered
14 electors of the township.

15 Section 3. Section 515 of the act is repealed:

16 [Section 515. Election of Township Assessor and Assistant
17 Township Assessor.--At the municipal election preceding the
18 expiration of the term of any township assessor or assistant
19 township assessor, and quadrennially thereafter, one township
20 assessor or one assistant township assessor, or both, as the
21 case may be, shall be elected for four year terms, from the
22 first Monday of January next succeeding their election.

23 The compensation of the assistant township assessor shall be
24 the same as provided by law for the township assessor, and shall
25 be paid by the county.

26 This section shall not apply to townships in counties having
27 county boards for the assessment and revision of taxes where
28 assessors, under existing laws, are appointed.]

29 Section 4. Section 530 of the act, amended May 1, 1981
30 (P.L.32, No.12), is amended to read:

1 Section 530. Vacancies in General.--When a vacancy occurs in
2 the office of township commissioner, auditor, controller,
3 treasurer, [assessor,] or assistant auditor, [or assistant
4 triennial assessor in any township,] by reason of death,
5 resignation, removal from the township or ward, or otherwise,
6 the board of township commissioners of such township shall fill
7 such vacancy by appointing by resolution a registered voter of
8 the ward or township, as the case may be, in which the vacancy
9 occurs. If the board of township commissioners of any township
10 shall refuse, fail, or neglect, or be unable for any reason
11 whatsoever, to fill such vacancy within thirty (30) days after
12 the vacancy occurs, then the vacancy board shall fill the
13 vacancy within fifteen (15) additional days by appointing a
14 registered elector of the ward or township, as the case may be,
15 in which the vacancy occurs. The vacancy board shall consist of
16 the board of commissioners and one registered elector of the
17 township, who shall be appointed by the board of township
18 commissioners at the board's first meeting each calendar year or
19 as soon thereafter as practical, and who shall act as chairman
20 of the vacancy board. If the vacancy board does not fill the
21 vacancy within the prescribed time, the chairman shall, or in
22 the case of a vacancy in the chairmanship the remaining members
23 of the vacancy board shall, petition the court of common pleas
24 to fill the vacancy by appointing a registered elector of the
25 ward or township, as the case may be, in which the vacancy
26 occurs. In the case where there are vacancies in a majority of
27 the offices of commissioners, the court of common pleas shall
28 fill such vacancies upon presentation of petition signed by not
29 less than fifteen (15) registered electors of the township. In
30 all cases, the person so appointed shall hold the office if the

1 term thereof continues so long, until the first Monday in
2 January after the first municipal election occurring more than
3 sixty (60) days after the vacancy occurs, at which election an
4 eligible person shall be elected for the remainder of the term
5 and shall have been a resident of the township continuously for
6 at least one (1) year before his appointment. In townships
7 divided into wards, all appointed commissioners shall reside in
8 the ward in which the vacancy occurred and shall have resided in
9 said ward continuously for at least one (1) year before
10 appointment. No person who was convicted of or pled guilty or no
11 contest to a felony shall be eligible for appointment to fill a
12 vacancy on the board of commissioners for a period of three (3)
13 years from the date of the conviction or plea.

14 Section 5. Clause III of section 1502 of the act is amended
15 to read:

16 Section 1502. The corporate power of a township of the first
17 class shall be vested in the board of township commissioners.

18 The board shall have power--

19 * * *

20 III. Officers, Positions and Departments. To create any
21 office, position or department which may be deemed necessary for
22 the good government and interests of the township; and to fix
23 the compensation of persons appointed thereto[; and to employ
24 the township assessor and any assistant township assessor to
25 perform work for the township in connection with the assessment
26 and valuation of property and occupations for taxation purposes,
27 or to perform other work when not engaged for the county, and to
28 fix their compensation, payable by the township].

29 * * *

30 Section 6. Section 1709.1 of the act, amended July 22, 1970

1 (P.L.551, No.189), is amended to read:

2 Section 1709.1. Additions and Revisions to Duplicates.--
3 Whenever in any first class township there is any construction
4 of a building or buildings not otherwise exempt as a dwelling
5 after January first of any year and the building is not included
6 in the tax duplicate of the township, the authority responsible
7 for assessments in the township shall, upon the request of the
8 township commissioners, [direct the assessor in the township to]
9 inspect and reassess, subject to the right of appeal and
10 adjustment provided by the act of Assembly under which
11 assessments are made, all taxable property in the township to
12 which major improvements have been made after January first of
13 any year and to give notice of such reassessments within ten
14 days to the authority responsible for assessments, the township
15 and the property owner. The property shall then be added to the
16 duplicate and shall be taxable for township purposes at the
17 reassessed valuation for that proportionate part of the fiscal
18 year of the township remaining after the property was improved.
19 Any improvement made during the month shall be computed as
20 having been made on the first of the month. A certified copy of
21 the additions or revisions to the duplicate shall be furnished
22 by the township commissioners to the township treasurer,
23 together with their warrant for collection of the same, and
24 within ten days thereafter the township treasurer shall notify
25 the owner of the property of the taxes due the township.

26 Whenever an assessment is made for a portion of a year as
27 above provided, the same shall be added to the duplicate of the
28 following or succeeding year unless the value of the
29 improvements has already been included in said duplicate.

30 Section 7. As of the effective date of this section, elected

1 ~~officers~~ ASSESSORS in townships of the first class shall serve ←
2 the remainder of their unexpired terms. Thereafter, assessors
3 shall neither be elected nor appointed in townships of the first
4 class.

5 Section 8. This act shall take effect in 60 days.