

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 836 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CONKLIN,
DONATUCCI, FAIRCHILD, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, HARHAI, KORTZ,
MAHONEY, MELIO, MILNE, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, PHILLIPS, READSHAW,
SIPTROTH, WALKO, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 10, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MARCH 10, 2009

AN ACT

1 Establishing a State Energy Office and providing for its powers
2 and duties; and making related repeals.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the State Energy
7 Office Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Council." An advisory council established under this act.

13 "Office." The State Energy Office established under this
14 act.

15 Section 3. Establishment.

16 The State Energy Office is established in the Governor's

1 Office to promote the goals of energy development and energy
2 conservation.

3 Section 4. Composition of office.

4 (a) Chairperson.--The Governor shall be the chairperson of
5 the office.

6 (b) Executive director and staff.--The Governor shall
7 designate an executive director and hire the staff of the office
8 in accordance with procedures of the Governor's Office of
9 Administration and of the Office of the Budget.

10 Section 5. Advisory council.

11 An advisory council shall be appointed by the Governor to be
12 composed of members of the General Assembly, the business and
13 transportation communities of this Commonwealth, public
14 officials and the general public. The purpose of the council is
15 to provide advice and assistance to the office on matters
16 affecting the State's energy situation. Advisory council members
17 shall be reimbursed for the expense of participating in advisory
18 council functions.

19 Section 6. Powers and duties of office.

20 The powers and duties of the office are as follows:

21 (1) To promote the development of this Commonwealth's
22 indigenous and renewable energy resources through programs
23 involving information and technical and financial assistance.

24 (2) To promote the efficient use of energy by the State
25 government and all sectors of this Commonwealth. Working with
26 the Governor's Green Government Council, the office shall
27 encourage energy efficiency and conservation through programs
28 providing information and technical and financial assistance.

29 The office shall also work with the Pennsylvania Public
30 Utility Commission to develop specific programs to promote

1 energy efficiency for commercial, industrial and residential
2 consumers of deregulated utilities, such as natural gas and
3 electricity.

4 (3) To be the point of contact for private and
5 government energy matters and the lead Commonwealth agency
6 for energy policy development. The office shall regularly
7 update the Commonwealth's energy policy to determine new
8 opportunities for energy development and energy conservation.

9 (4) To be the primary manager and coordinator of Federal
10 energy grants, petroleum overcharge funds and private energy
11 grants.

12 (5) To assist in the review of energy-related plans,
13 programs, policies and regulations of other Commonwealth
14 agencies and to provide recommendations to further promote
15 energy development and energy conservation. The office is
16 authorized to intervene in energy-related proceedings of the
17 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and other Federal or
18 State regulatory agencies.

19 (6) To monitor prices of petroleum and supplies of
20 petroleum products available for use in this Commonwealth to
21 determine whether there exists or is likely to exist a
22 shortage under section 2802-C(d) of the act of April 9, 1929
23 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929,
24 and to conduct emergency allocation measures during a period
25 of declared emergency petroleum product shortage under
26 section 2802-C of The Administrative Code of 1929. The office
27 shall also monitor the price and supply of energy to provide
28 information to the Governor on the changing impact of energy
29 prices on this Commonwealth's economy.

30 (7) To assume the responsibilities assigned to the

1 Department of Environmental Protection under the act of June
2 28, 1995 (P.L.89, No.18), known as the Conservation and
3 Natural Resources Act, which had been assigned to the
4 Pennsylvania Energy Office under prior statutes, regulations
5 and executive orders, including the administration of the
6 funds transferred to the department under section 507 of the
7 Conservation and Natural Resources Act.

8 (8) To promote the establishment of a regional strategic
9 heating oil and diesel fuel reserve in the mid-Atlantic
10 states and other programs that ensure that energy shortages
11 or price surges do not harm this Commonwealth's economy.

12 Section 7. Repeals.

13 Repeals are as follows:

14 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under
15 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate the provisions of
16 this act.

17 (2) Sections 504, 507 and 508 of the act of June 28,
18 1995 (P.L.89, No.18), known as the Conservation and Natural
19 Resources Act, are repealed.

20 Section 8. Effective date.

21 This act shall take effect in 60 days.