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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1566 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY GABLER, COHEN, EVANKOVICH, METZGAR, MILLARD, MUNDY  
AND PICKETT, JUNE 20, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
JUNE 20, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Providing for restrictions on disposal well locations; and  
2 providing for enforcement by the Department of Environmental  
3 Protection.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
8 Disposal Well Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Building." An occupied structure with walls and roof within  
14 which persons live or customarily work.

15 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of  
16 the Commonwealth.

17 "Disposal well." A permitted well that is:

18 (1) Drilled or altered to inject brines and other fluids

1 associated with the production of oil and natural gas for  
2 disposal.

3 (2) Classified as a Class II well and regulated under 40  
4 C.F.R. Part 144 (relating to underground injection control  
5 program).

6 Section 3. Disposal well location restrictions.

7 On and after the effective date of this section, no disposal  
8 well may be located within 1,000 feet, measured horizontally  
9 from the vertical well bore, of a building, water well, surface  
10 water intake, reservoir or other water supply extraction point  
11 used by a water purveyor, in existence when a permit application  
12 to drill or operate the disposal well is submitted, without  
13 written consent of the owner of the building or water well or  
14 the water purveyor.

15 Section 4. Enforcement.

16 The department shall enforce the provisions of this act.

17 Section 5. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect immediately.