

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2112 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY CAUSER, BAKER, RAPP, MILLARD, GROVE, PICKETT,
PEIFER, MURT, THOMAS, GABLER, METCALFE, EVERETT AND KULA,
MARCH 19, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MARCH 19, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 17, 1929 (P.L.1798, No.591), entitled
2 "An act providing a fixed charge, payable by the
3 Commonwealth, on lands acquired by the State and the Federal
4 Government for forest reserves, or for the purpose of
5 preserving and perpetuating a portion of the original forests
6 of Pennsylvania, and preserving and maintaining the same as
7 public places and parks; and the distribution of the same for
8 county, school, township, and road purposes in the counties,
9 school districts, and townships where such forests are
10 located; and making an appropriation," increasing annual
11 charge.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of May 17, 1929 (P.L.1798,
15 No.591), referred to as the Forest Reserves Municipal Financial
16 Relief Law, amended July 7, 2006 (P.L.722, No.102), is amended
17 to read:

18 Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That (a) from and after the
19 passage of this act, all lands heretofore or hereafter acquired
20 by the Commonwealth, or by the Government of the United States,
21 for forest reserves or for the purpose of preserving and

1 perpetuating any portion of the original forests of Pennsylvania
2 and preserving and maintaining the same as public places and
3 parks, and which, by existing laws, are now exempt from
4 taxation, and all lands and property heretofore or hereafter
5 acquired for the purpose of conservation of water, or to prevent
6 flood conditions, upon which a tax is imposed by existing laws
7 payable by the Commonwealth, shall hereafter be subject to an
8 annual charge of [forty cents] one dollar per acre plus eighty
9 cents per acre as a supplement for the benefit of the county in
10 which said lands are located, [forty cents] one dollar per acre
11 plus eighty cents per acre as a supplement for the benefit of
12 the schools in the respective school districts in which such
13 lands are located, and [forty cents] one dollar per acre plus
14 eighty cents per acre as a supplement for the benefit of the
15 township where such lands are located, which charge shall be
16 payable by the Commonwealth, subject to the availability of
17 funds pursuant to section 2(b)(2). (b) Except as hereinafter
18 provided, the annual charge payable by the Commonwealth on land
19 acquired by the Government of the United States for forest
20 reserves is to continue only until the receipts of money by
21 treasurers and township supervisors of the said counties and
22 school districts and townships in which national forest reserves
23 are located, provided for in act of April twenty-seventh, one
24 thousand nine hundred twenty-five, Pamphlet Laws, three hundred
25 twenty-four, shall equal or exceed the amount paid by the
26 Commonwealth in lieu of taxes. This subsection shall not apply
27 to the annual charge per acre for the benefit of the county in
28 which the land acquired by the Government of the United States
29 for forest reserves is located for the years one thousand nine
30 hundred fifty-three, one thousand nine hundred fifty-four, one

1 thousand nine hundred fifty-five, one thousand nine hundred
2 fifty-six, and this subsection shall not apply to two and one-
3 half cents of the annual charge per acre for the benefit of the
4 county in which the land acquired by the Government of the
5 United States for forest reserves is located for any year
6 thereafter. The charges for the benefit of the county for these
7 years shall be paid by the Commonwealth. All charges payable by
8 the Commonwealth under the provisions of this act shall be paid
9 on or before the first day of September of each year.

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.