
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 344 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CAUSER, BAKER, GABLER, GILLEN, JAMES, MAJOR,
METCALFE, MILLARD, MURT, OBERLANDER, PEIFER, PICKETT, RAPP,
SONNEY, TALLMAN AND TOPPER, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2015

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 twenty cents per acre
9 plus eighty cents per acre as a supplement for the benefit of
10 the county in which said lands are located, [forty cents] one
11 dollar twenty cents per acre plus eighty cents per acre as a
12 supplement for the benefit of the schools in the respective
13 school districts in which such lands are located, and [forty
14 cents] one dollar twenty cents per acre plus eighty cents per
15 acre as a supplement for the benefit of the township where such
16 lands are located, which charge shall be payable by the
17 Commonwealth, subject to the availability of funds pursuant to
18 section 2(b)(2). (b) Except as hereinafter provided, the annual
19 charge payable by the Commonwealth on land acquired by the
20 Government of the United States for forest reserves is to
21 continue only until the receipts of money by treasurers and
22 township supervisors of the said counties and school districts
23 and townships in which national forest reserves are located,
24 provided for in act of April twenty-seventh, one thousand nine
25 hundred twenty-five, Pamphlet Laws, three hundred twenty-four,
26 shall equal or exceed the amount paid by the Commonwealth in
27 lieu of taxes. This subsection shall not apply to the annual
28 charge per acre for the benefit of the county in which the land
29 acquired by the Government of the United States for forest
30 reserves is located for the years one thousand nine hundred

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

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