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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 64 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, YUDICHAK, STACK, TEPLITZ, BREWSTER,  
FONTANA, BAKER, BOSCOLA, HUGHES, COSTA, TARTAGLIONE AND  
RAFFERTY, JANUARY 14, 2015

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, JANUARY 14, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in unconventional gas well fee, further providing  
3 for distribution of fee.

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

6 Section 1. Section 2314(c.1) of Title 58 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 2314. Distribution of fee.

9 \* \* \*

10 (c.1) Additional distributions.--From fees collected under  
11 this chapter and deposited in the fund for 2011 and each year  
12 thereafter:

13 (1) One million dollars shall be distributed to the  
14 Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for costs relating to  
15 the review of applications for permits to drill  
16 unconventional gas wells.

17 (2) One million dollars shall be distributed to the  
18 commission for costs to administer this chapter and Chapter

1 33 (relating to local ordinances relating to oil and gas  
2 operations).

3 (3) Six million dollars shall be distributed to the  
4 department for the administration of this act and the  
5 enforcement of acts relating to clean air and clean water.

6 (4) Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be  
7 distributed to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency  
8 for emergency response planning, training and coordination  
9 related to natural gas production from unconventional gas  
10 wells.

11 (5) Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be  
12 distributed to the Office of State Fire Commissioner for the  
13 development, delivery and sustainment of training and grant  
14 programs for first responders and the acquisition of  
15 specialized equipment for response to emergencies relating to  
16 natural gas production from unconventional gas wells.

17 (6) One million dollars shall be distributed to the  
18 Department of Transportation for rail freight assistance.

19 (7) Three million dollars shall be distributed to the  
20 Department of Health to be used:

21 (i) To conduct health services research to determine  
22 if health services are adequate in areas of the  
23 Commonwealth where unconventional gas well drilling  
24 occurs. This subparagraph includes the collection and  
25 reporting of health data in areas where unconventional  
26 gas wells are drilled and training in occupational and  
27 environmental medicine to health care providers.

28 (ii) To conduct research on the effects of air  
29 quality on health and disease in areas where  
30 unconventional gas wells are drilled. The research shall

1 examine the impacts that short-term, intermediate and  
2 long-term exposure to air contaminant emissions from  
3 natural gas production and processing operations in  
4 unconventional shale formations has on respiratory-  
5 related hospital admissions, emergency room visits and  
6 premature deaths. In order to translate population  
7 studies to personalized medicine under this subparagraph,  
8 a portion of the funds under this subparagraph shall be  
9 allocated to support research to identify biomarkers of  
10 exposure to determine susceptibility of disease and to  
11 understand the direct effects of air pollutants generated  
12 by oil and gas operations.

13 In conducting research under this paragraph, the Department  
14 of Health shall partner or contract with other entities with  
15 established environmental health sciences research programs  
16 within this Commonwealth.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.