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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 230 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY KITCHEN, COSTA, HUGHES, BREWSTER, TARTAGLIONE,  
TEPLITZ, HAYWOOD, WOZNIAK, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, SCHWANK,  
GORDNER, FARNESE, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY AND WILLIAMS,  
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the Youth Job Program; providing for job training  
2 and career experience to unemployed youths; imposing powers  
3 and duties on the Department of Conservation and Natural  
4 Resources; and making an appropriation.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Youth Job  
9 Program Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Department." The Department of Conservation and Natural  
15 Resources of the Commonwealth.

16 "Local government." A municipality as defined in 1 Pa.C.S. §  
17 1991 (relating to definitions).

18 "Program." The Youth Job Program established by this act.

1 "Qualified youth." Individuals who are between 16 and 21  
2 years of age and who are unemployed or who have never been  
3 employed.

4 "TANF." The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program  
5 under the Social Security Act (49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. § 301 et  
6 seq.).

7 Section 3. Youth Job Program.

8 (a) Establishment.--The Youth Job Program is established  
9 within the department.

10 (b) Purpose.--The purpose of the program is to provide  
11 valuable job training and career experience to unemployed youth  
12 throughout this Commonwealth by providing summer employment  
13 opportunities at State and local parks and recreation facilities  
14 to qualified youth. Employment opportunities shall be offered  
15 either through the department or through local governments that  
16 receive grant funding under this act.

17 (c) Program requirements.--

18 (1) Qualified youth may be employed by the department or  
19 a local government at an hourly rate of \$10 per hour. The  
20 receipt of a salary or other benefits by the qualified youth  
21 under this program shall not be used in calculating income  
22 for purposes of determining eligibility for TANF benefits by  
23 the qualified youth's parents or legal guardians.

24 (2) Qualified youth employed by the department or a  
25 local government under the program shall be limited to a  
26 maximum of 25 employment hours per week.

27 (3) The period of employment offered to qualified youth  
28 by the department or a local government under the program  
29 shall not exceed 10 weeks.

30 Section 4. Powers and duties of department.

1 The department shall have the following powers and duties:

2 (1) To employ qualified youth with the department for  
3 purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act.

4 (2) To establish application procedures for local  
5 governments to apply for grants to carry out the purposes of  
6 this act.

7 (3) To establish a procedure for awarding grants to  
8 local governments, except that no grant may be awarded to a  
9 local government whose proposed program does not comply with  
10 section 3(c).

11 Section 5. Appropriation.

12 The sum of \$25,000,000 is hereby appropriated from the Oil  
13 and Gas Lease Fund to the department for the purposes of this  
14 act.

15 Section 6. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect immediately.