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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 828 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY FRITZ, NEILSON, PICKETT, BERNSTINE, KAUFER,  
DUNBAR, MILLARD, IRVIN, TOOHL, GABLER, JAMES, NELSON,  
OBERLANDER, WALSH, BENNINGHOFF, EVERETT, SCHMITT, SAYLOR,  
O'NEAL, SNYDER, F. KELLER, RYAN, ZIMMERMAN, GROVE, STRUZZI,  
WHEELAND AND MASSER, MARCH 14, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
MARCH 14, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in development, further providing for well permits.

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

5 Section 1. Section 3211(i) of Title 58 of the Pennsylvania  
6 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by  
7 adding subsections to read:

8 § 3211. Well permits.

9 \* \* \*

10 (a.1) Multi-well pad permit.--An unconventional well  
11 operator may apply to the department for a multi-well pad permit  
12 under subsections (b), (c) and (e) for the development of oil or  
13 natural gas. A person who receives a multi-well pad permit under  
14 this subsection shall not be required to obtain a separate well  
15 permit under subsection (a) for any unconventional wells drilled  
16 or altered within the permitted area that are spud prior to the

1 expiration of the permit. A copy of the permit shall be kept at  
2 the well site during preparation and construction of the well  
3 site or access road during drilling or alteration of the well.

4 The following apply:

5 (1) For any well drilled under a permit issued under  
6 this subsection, the area of review survey required by the  
7 department identifying any wells which penetrate within 1,500  
8 feet of planned hydraulic fracturing perforations shall be  
9 submitted concurrent with the well record required under  
10 section 3222(b)(2) (relating to well reporting requirements).

11 (2) Each application for a permit shall be accompanied  
12 by a permit fee of \$2,000.

13 (3) An operator shall pay a fee for each well spud under  
14 authorization of a permit issued under this subsection. The  
15 fee shall be equal to the fee charged by the department under  
16 subsection (d).

17 (4) A permit issued under this subsection shall expire  
18 five years after issuance unless operations for drilling a  
19 well under the permit are commenced within the period and are  
20 pursued with due diligence or unless the permit is renewed in  
21 accordance with regulations of the department.

22 \* \* \*

23 (e.2) Well deviation.--The department shall not require a  
24 permittee to repermit a well unless the surface hole location of  
25 the well deviates by more than 50 feet from the original  
26 proposed surface hole location contained on the plat that  
27 accompanies the well permit application. Deviation of the final  
28 subterranean well bore path from the proposed subterranean well  
29 bore path, if indicated, on the plat that accompanies the well  
30 permit application due to geologic, safety, environmental

1 protection, optimal resource extraction or other reasonable  
2 consideration shall not constitute a violation.

3 \* \* \*

4 (i) Expiration.--

5 (1) Well permits issued for drilling wells under this  
6 chapter shall expire one year after issuance unless  
7 operations for drilling the well are commenced within the  
8 period and pursued with due diligence or unless the permit is  
9 renewed in accordance with regulations of the department. If  
10 drilling is commenced during the one-year period, the well  
11 permit shall remain in force until the well is plugged in  
12 accordance with section 3220 (relating to plugging  
13 requirements) or the permit is revoked. A drilling permit  
14 issued prior to April 18, 1985, for a well which is an  
15 operating well on April 18, 1985, shall remain in force as a  
16 well permit until the well is plugged in accordance with  
17 section 3220.

18 (2) The department may establish, by regulation, a  
19 multi-year well permit. The well permit application fee  
20 charged by the department shall be prorated according to the  
21 duration of the multi-year well permit.

22 \* \* \*

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