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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1456 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY OWLETT, PICKETT, HAMM, SNYDER, CAUSER, RYAN,  
OBERLANDER, TOPPER, HERSHEY, IRVIN, RAPP, MILLARD, JAMES,  
STRUZZI AND SMITH, MAY 20, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MAY 20, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Providing for the reopening of travel sites operated by the  
2 Department of Transportation.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Rural Access  
7 to PennDOT Services Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

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

12 "Department." The Department of Transportation of the  
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Department services." Any of the following services  
15 provided by the department and department employees to the  
16 public which are within the department's authority under 75  
17 Pa.C.S. (relating to vehicles):

1           (1) The processing of department forms, applications and  
2 other documents.

3           (2) The taking of photographs.

4           (3) The administration of tests.

5           (4) The issuance of licenses, registrations, permits and  
6 other authorizations.

7 "Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency." The  
8 Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency issued on March 6,  
9 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any  
10 renewal of the state of disaster emergency, related to the novel  
11 coronavirus identified as COVID-19.

12 "Travel site." A facility operated by the department that  
13 provided in-person department services and was open to the  
14 public three or fewer days during the week and was regularly  
15 open to the public during the month of February 2020.

16 Section 3. Reopening of travel sites.

17 The department shall, by the effective date of this section,  
18 reopen all travel sites to the public that were closed due to  
19 the Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency, subject to  
20 the following:

21           (1) Each travel site shall be open to the public for in-  
22 person department services no less than the same number of  
23 days during the week that the travel site was open to the  
24 public for in-person department services prior to the  
25 Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency.

26           (2) Each travel site shall be open to the public for in-  
27 person department services no less than the same number of  
28 hours on each day that the travel site was open to the public  
29 for in-person department services prior to the Governor's  
30 proclamation of disaster emergency.

1           (3) The department shall, at each travel site, provide  
2 the same in-person department services to the public that  
3 were provided at the travel site prior to the Governor's  
4 proclamation of disaster emergency.

5           (4) The department shall, at each travel site, provide  
6 the in-person department services required under paragraph  
7 (3) during all times when the travel site is required to be  
8 open to the public under paragraphs (1) and (2).

9 Section 4. Construction.

10 Nothing in this act shall be construed to:

11           (1) Prevent the department, at each travel site reopened  
12 to the public under section 3, from offering additional in-  
13 person department services, operating days or operating hours  
14 to the public that exceed the minimum requirements in section  
15 3.

16           (2) Require the department to provide in-person  
17 department services at a travel site reopened to the public  
18 under section 3 that were not regularly offered to the public  
19 at the travel site prior to the Governor's proclamation of  
20 disaster emergency.

21           (3) Prevent the department from complying with the  
22 provisions of this act prior to the expiration or termination  
23 of the Governor's proclamation of disaster emergency.

24 Section 5. Effective date.

25 This act shall take effect in 14 days.