

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1591 Session of
2021INTRODUCED BY KNOWLES, FREEMAN, JAMES, MOUL, SAPPEY AND WARNER,
JUNE 10, 2021SENATOR DUSH, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled
2 "An act relating to counties of the first, second class A,
3 third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes;
4 amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws
5 relating thereto; relating to imposition of excise taxes by
6 counties, including authorizing imposition of an excise tax
7 on the rental of motor vehicles by counties of the first
8 class; and providing for regional renaissance initiatives,"
9 in names and corporate powers, classification of counties,
10 further providing for ascertainment, certification and effect
11 of change of class; and making related repeals.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 211 of the act of August 9, 1955
15 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, is amended by
16 adding a subsection to read:

17 Section 211. Ascertainment, Certification and Effect of
18 Change of Class.--* * *

19 ~~(d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, as <--~~
20 ~~a result of the delays in the 2020 Federal decennial census and~~
21 ~~the COVID 19 pandemic, the classification of all counties as of~~

1 ~~the effective date of this subsection shall remain unchanged~~
2 ~~until the 2030 census, at which time the procedures established~~
3 ~~in subsections (a), (b) and (c) shall apply. For the purposes of~~
4 ~~determining whether a county has decreased in population so as~~
5 ~~to recede in classification under subsection (b) following the~~
6 ~~2030 decennial census, both the 2020 and 2030 decennial censuses~~
7 ~~shall be considered.~~

8 (D) UNLESS THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF A COUNTY MEETING <--
9 THE REQUISITE COUNTY POPULATION LEVELS IN SECTION 210 ENACTS AN
10 ORDINANCE OR ADOPTS A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CHANGE OF
11 CLASSIFICATION PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 22, 2022, AS A RESULT OF THE
12 DELAYS IN THE 2020 FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS AND THE COVID-19
13 PANDEMIC, THE CLASSIFICATION OF ALL COUNTIES AS OF THE EFFECTIVE
14 DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED UNTIL THE 2030
15 CENSUS, AT WHICH TIME THE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTIONS
16 (A), (B) AND (C) SHALL APPLY. FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING
17 WHETHER A COUNTY HAS DECREASED IN POPULATION SO AS TO RECEDE IN
18 CLASSIFICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (B) FOLLOWING THE 2030 DECENNIAL
19 CENSUS, BOTH THE 2020 AND 2030 DECENNIAL CENSUSES SHALL BE
20 CONSIDERED.

21 Section 2. Repeals are as follows:

22 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeals under
23 paragraph (2) are necessary to effectuate the addition of
24 section 211(d).

25 (2) Sections 210 and 211 of the act of July 28, 1953
26 (P.L.723, No.230), known as the Second Class County Code, are
27 repealed.

28 Section 3. This act shall take effect September 30, 2021, or
29 immediately, whichever is later.