
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

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INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, THOMAS, COOK, ROTHMAN, PICKETT AND
R. BROWN, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for Commonwealth Economic
3 Development Action Team.

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

6 Section 1. Title 12 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 9

9 COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION TEAM

10 Sec.

11 901. Scope.

12 902. Definitions.

13 903. Commonwealth Economic Development Action Team.

14 904. Powers and duties of team.

15 905. Assistance for qualified businesses.

16 906. Duties of executive agencies.

17 907. Commonwealth Economic Development Selection and

18 Organization Committee.

1 908. Annual report.

2 § 901. Scope.

3 This chapter relates to the Commonwealth Economic Development
4 Action Team.

5 § 902. Definitions.

6 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
7 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
8 context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 "Committee." The Commonwealth Economic Development Selection
10 and Organization Committee established under section 907(a)
11 (relating to Commonwealth Economic Development Selection and
12 Organization Committee).

13 "Executive agency." A department, board or commission of the
14 Executive Department which is under the policy supervision and
15 control of the Governor.

16 "Executive director." The executive director of the team
17 appointed under section 903(b) (relating to Commonwealth
18 Economic Development Action Team).

19 "Project." An effort by a qualified business which will
20 result in any of the following:

21 (1) A meaningful increase in the number of jobs in this
22 Commonwealth.

23 (2) A substantial increase in the amount of tax revenue
24 collected by the Commonwealth.

25 "Qualified business." A business that is authorized to do
26 business in this Commonwealth and has received an evaluation
27 under section 904(c) (relating to powers and duties of team).

28 "Team." The Commonwealth Economic Development Action Team
29 established under section 903(a).

30 "Team member." An employee of the department who has been

1 appointed as staff of the team under section 903(c).

2 § 903. Commonwealth Economic Development Action Team.

3 (a) Establishment.--The Commonwealth Economic Development
4 Action Team is established as an office within the department.

5 (b) Executive director.--The team shall be directed by an
6 executive director. Within 90 days of the effective date of this
7 section, the committee shall appoint an executive director to
8 direct the team. The Executive Board established under section
9 204 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The
10 Administrative Code of 1929, shall set the compensation of the
11 executive director.

12 (c) Staffing.--The executive director shall appoint
13 individuals, including experienced economic development
14 professionals, to act as staff of the team as may be
15 appropriate. The executive director may contract for additional
16 services as necessary for the performance of the executive
17 director's duties.

18 (d) Legal services.--The Office of General Counsel shall
19 provide legal services as necessary to the team.

20 (e) Administrative services.--

21 (1) The department shall provide administrative services
22 and staff to the team. The team shall reimburse the
23 department for the cost of providing the administrative
24 services and staff under this paragraph.

25 (2) The executive director may enter into an agreement
26 with the department setting forth the rights and obligations
27 of the team and the department in carrying out their duties
28 to each other under this chapter and to further the intent of
29 this chapter.

30 (f) Appropriation.--The appropriation for the team shall be

1 in a separate line item and shall be under the jurisdiction of
2 the executive director.

3 § 904. Powers and duties of team.

4 (a) Single point of contact.--The team shall serve as a
5 single point of contact for a business considering moving to,
6 considering expanding in or seeking to maintain operations in
7 this Commonwealth.

8 (b) Regional offices.--The executive director shall
9 establish appropriate regions and regional offices for the team
10 across this Commonwealth.

11 (c) Evaluation.--Upon the request of a business, the team
12 shall evaluate the needs of the business and a proposed project,
13 including all of the following:

14 (1) The overall economic impact of the proposed project.

15 (2) The financial condition of the business.

16 (3) The strength of the business model of the business.

17 (4) The strength of the commitments for private
18 financing for the proposed project.

19 (5) The competitive posture of the proposed project.

20 (d) Assignment of team members.--The team shall assign a
21 team member for a qualified business, who shall serve as the
22 primary point of contact for the qualified business and the
23 team.

24 (e) Referrals for assistance.--Upon completing a review
25 under subsection (c), the team may refer a qualified business
26 for assistance under section 905 (relating to assistance for
27 qualified businesses) and other economic development programs.

28 (f) Survey and feedback.--The team shall annually survey
29 qualified businesses and provide an opportunity to submit
30 feedback on the assistance provided under this chapter. The team

1 shall provide the survey results and feedback under this
2 subsection to the committee.

3 (g) Performance metrics.--The team shall collect and compile
4 performance metrics relating to the actions of the team,
5 including the data necessary to compile the annual report under
6 section 908 (relating to annual report).

7 § 905. Assistance for qualified businesses.

8 (a) Site selection.--The team shall do all of the following:

9 (1) Maintain a site selection database on a publicly
10 accessible Internet website, which shall include a voluntary
11 registration of business site locations and information on
12 available resources.

13 (2) Provide individualized site selection assistance for
14 a qualified business.

15 (b) Interagency coordination.--The team shall do all of the
16 following:

17 (1) Coordinate the involvement of executive agencies in
18 a project.

19 (2) Facilitate introductions with relevant executive
20 agencies.

21 (3) To the extent permitted by law and policy of an
22 executive agency, facilitate the permit review and approval
23 for a project.

24 (c) Economic development.--The team shall do all of the
25 following:

26 (1) Refer a qualified business to economic development
27 programs and other grant programs that are available to the
28 qualified business.

29 (2) At the request of a qualified business, consult with
30 an executive agency about applications by the qualified

1 business for a program or permit administered by the
2 executive agency.

3 § 906. Duties of executive agencies.

4 (a) Consultation with team members.--Except as otherwise
5 provided by Federal law or an applicable duty or privilege, an
6 executive agency shall agree to consult with a team member for
7 the purpose of section 905(c)(2) (relating to assistance for
8 qualified businesses). The executive agency may require a
9 qualified business to request the consultation under this
10 subsection in writing.

11 (b) (Reserved).

12 § 907. Commonwealth Economic Development Selection and
13 Organization Committee.

14 (a) Establishment.--The Commonwealth Economic Development
15 Selection and Organization Committee is established as a
16 committee within the team.

17 (b) Duties.--The committee shall establish all of the
18 following:

19 (1) Procedures to select the executive director.

20 (2) The operational budget of the team.

21 (c) Composition.--The committee shall be comprised of the
22 following members:

23 (1) The Governor or a designee.

24 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate or a
25 designee.

26 (3) The Majority Leader of the Senate or a designee.

27 (4) The Minority Leader of the Senate or a designee.

28 (5) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or a
29 designee.

30 (6) The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives

1 or a designee.

2 (7) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
3 or a designee.

4 (d) Operations.--

5 (1) The committee shall conduct a meeting to organize
6 within 30 days of the effective date of this section.

7 (2) The members of the committee shall select a member
8 of the committee to serve as chair. The chair shall call
9 meetings of the committee.

10 (3) The committee shall act upon a vote of the majority
11 of the members of the committee.

12 § 908. Annual report.

13 (a) Report.--No later than March 31, 2023, and each March 31
14 thereafter, the executive director shall publish an annual
15 report on the team.

16 (b) Contents.---The annual report under subsection (a) shall
17 include all of the following information:

18 (1) The number of businesses that used the team as a
19 single point of contact under section 904(a) (relating to
20 powers and duties of team) during the prior calendar year.

21 (2) The number of businesses that were evaluated under
22 section 904(c) during the prior calendar year.

23 (3) The number of qualified businesses which received
24 assistance from the team during the prior calendar year.

25 (4) To the extent possible, all of the following
26 information:

27 (i) The number of jobs retained in this Commonwealth
28 for projects which received assistance from the team.

29 (ii) The number of jobs added in this Commonwealth
30 for projects which received assistance from the team.

1 (iii) The amount of additional capital investment in
2 this Commonwealth for projects which received assistance
3 from the team.

4 Section 2. The Governor's Action Team is abolished. All
5 personnel, allocations, appropriations, equipment, files,
6 records, contracts, agreements, obligations and other materials
7 which are used, employed or expended in connection with the
8 functions of the Governor's Action Team are hereby transferred
9 to the Commonwealth Economic Development Action Team, with the
10 same force and effect as if:

11 (1) The allocations and appropriations had been made to
12 the Commonwealth Economic Development Action Team in the
13 first instance.

14 (2) The personnel, equipment, files, records and other
15 materials of the Governor's Action Team had been the
16 personnel and property of the Commonwealth Economic
17 Development Action Team in the first instance.

18 (3) The contracts, agreements and obligations of the
19 Governor's Action Team had been incurred or entered into by
20 the Commonwealth Economic Development Action Team.

21 Section 3. Except as otherwise provided under 12 Pa.C.S. Ch.
22 9, all activities initiated by the Governor's Action Team prior
23 to the effective date of this section shall continue and remain
24 in full force and effect and may be completed by the
25 Commonwealth Economic Development Action Team. Orders,
26 regulations, rules and decisions which were made prior to the
27 effective date of this section and which are in effect on the
28 effective date of this section shall remain in full force and
29 effect until revoked, vacated or modified by the Commonwealth
30 Economic Development Action Team. Contracts, obligations and

1 collective bargaining agreements entered into by the Governor's
2 Action Team are not affected nor impaired by this act.
3 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.