
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 685 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY STURLA, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, KINKEAD AND
GUENST, MARCH 23, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
MARCH 23, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 19, 1974 (P.L.973, No.319),
2 entitled "An act prescribing the procedure under which an
3 owner may have land devoted to agricultural use, agricultural
4 reserve use, or forest reserve use, valued for tax purposes
5 at the value it has for such uses, and providing for
6 reassessment and certain interest payments when such land is
7 applied to other uses and making editorial changes," further
8 providing for applications for preferential assessments.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 4(c) of the act of December 19, 1974
12 (P.L.973, No.319), known as the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest
13 Land Assessment Act of 1974, is amended to read:

14 Section 4. Applications for Preferential Assessments.--* * *

15 (c) There shall be uniform application forms for
16 preferential assessment in all counties. Such application forms
17 shall be developed by the department. In addition to the
18 information which the department shall deem appropriate, the
19 following [statement] sentences shall be included:

20 "The applicant for preferential assessment hereby agrees, if

1 his application is approved for preferential assessment, to
2 submit thirty days' notice to the county assessor of a proposed
3 change in use of the land, a change in ownership of a portion of
4 the land or of any type of division or conveyance of the land.
5 The applicant for preferential assessment hereby acknowledges
6 that, if his application is approved for preferential
7 assessment, roll-back taxes under section 5.1 of the act may be
8 due for a change in use of the land, a change in ownership of
9 any portion of the land, or any type of division or conveyance
10 of the land."

11 "As may be required under the act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987,
12 No.394), known as The Clean Streams Law, or 25 Pa. Code Ch. 102
13 (relating to erosion and sediment control), have you submitted a
14 conservation plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture?
15 If yes, include the conservation plan with the application. If a
16 required conservation plan is not applicable to this property,
17 explain. If no, you are not eligible to apply for preferential
18 assessment until such time as the conservation plan is
19 completed."

20 * * *

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