

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1294 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY SMITH-WADE-EL, KHAN, SIEGEL, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, MADDEN, T. DAVIS, KENYATTA, KINSEY, KAZEEM, STEELE, KRAJEWSKI, PARKER, HOWARD, HOHENSTEIN, FIEDLER, INNAMORATO, CONKLIN, SAMUELSON, TAKAC, GREEN AND FLEMING, JUNE 1, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, JUNE 1, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled  
 2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the  
 3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the  
 4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative  
 5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,  
 6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or  
 7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or  
 8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative  
 9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and  
 10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative  
 11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,  
 12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the  
 13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive  
 14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of  
 15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and  
 16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,  
 17 and commissions; providing for judicial administration; and  
 18 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation  
 19 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of  
 20 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be  
 21 determined," establishing the Commonwealth Housing Council;  
 22 and providing for duties of council.

23 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 24 hereby enacts as follows:

25 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known  
 26 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding an

1 article to read:

2 ARTICLE XXVIII-J

3 COMMONWEALTH HOUSING COUNCIL

4 Section 2801-J. Scope of article.

5 This article establishes the Commonwealth Housing Council.

6 Section 2802-J. Definitions.

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

10 "Council." The Commonwealth Housing Council established  
11 under section 2803-J.

12 Section 2803-J. Establishment of council.

13 The Commonwealth Housing Council is established.

14 Section 2804-J. Purpose of council.

15 The council shall coordinate with executive departments and  
16 agencies regarding the Commonwealth's housing policies.

17 Section 2805-J. Membership of council.

18 The council shall consist of the following members:

19 (1) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development  
20 or a designee.

21 (2) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.

22 (3) The Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Housing  
23 Finance Agency or a designee.

24 (4) The Secretary of the Budget or a designee.

25 (5) A member of the Senate appointed by the President  
26 pro tempore of the Senate.

27 (6) A member of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
28 Leader of the Senate.

29 (7) A member of the House of Representatives appointed  
30 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1           (8) A member of the House of Representatives appointed  
2 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

3           (9) The mayor of a city of the first class or a designee  
4 with experience in housing.

5           (10) The county executive of a county of the second  
6 class or a designee with experience in housing.

7           (11) One member representing county government with  
8 experience in housing appointed by the Governor from a list  
9 of 16 individuals provided by the county commissioners or  
10 county executives of Adams, Berks, Centre, Cumberland,  
11 Dauphin, Fulton, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster,  
12 Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, Union and York Counties.

13           (12) One member of county government with experience in  
14 housing appointed by the Governor from a list of 18  
15 individuals provided by the county commissioners or county  
16 executives of Bradford, Carbon, Clinton, Columbia,  
17 Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montour,  
18 Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Sullivan,  
19 Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne and Wyoming Counties.

20           (13) One member of county government with experience in  
21 housing appointed by the Governor from a list of six  
22 individuals provided by the county commissioners or county  
23 executives of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery  
24 and Northampton Counties.

25           (14) One member of county government with experience in  
26 housing appointed by the Governor from a list of 13  
27 individuals provided by the county commissioners or county  
28 executives of Armstrong, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield,  
29 Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer,  
30 Venango and Warren Counties.

1       (15) One member of county government with experience in  
2 housing appointed by the Governor from a list of 12  
3 individuals provided by the county commissioners or county  
4 executives of Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria,  
5 Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington and  
6 Westmoreland Counties.

7 Section 2806-J. Administration of council.

8       (a) Organization.--The Governor shall select a member of the  
9 council to serve as chairperson. The members of the council  
10 shall select from among themselves any other officers as the  
11 council deems necessary.

12       (b) Quorum.--A majority of the members of the council shall  
13 constitute a quorum. A majority of the members of the council  
14 shall be necessary to take an action of the council. The number  
15 required for a majority of the members of the council under this  
16 subsection shall be reduced if there is a vacancy on the  
17 council.

18       (c) Meetings.--The council shall hold its first meeting  
19 within 90 days of the effective date of this subsection. The  
20 council shall meet no less than once a quarter.

21       (d) Initial appointments and vacancies.--

22           (1) An appointing authority under section 2805-J shall  
23 appoint initial members to the council within 60 days of the  
24 effective date of this subsection.

25           (2) A member of the council shall serve a term of three  
26 years and may be reappointed for no more than two consecutive  
27 terms.

28           (3) A member of the council appointed under section  
29 2805-J(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) shall serve a  
30 term concurrent with the appointing authority.

1           (4) If a vacancy occurs on the council, the designating  
2           or appointing authority shall fill the vacancy in accordance  
3           with section 2805-J.

4           (e) Administrative support.--The Office of the Budget shall  
5           provide administrative services and staff to the council.

6           (f) Compensation.--The members of the council shall not  
7           receive compensation for service on the council.

8           (g) Cooperation.--Each executive department or agency shall  
9           cooperate with the council in fulfilling the council's duties  
10           under section 2807-J.

11           Section 2807-J. Duties of council.

12           (a) Housing strategies.--The council shall develop the  
13           Commonwealth's comprehensive housing strategy that may be used  
14           by executive departments or agencies.

15           (b) Duties.--The council shall have the following duties:

16                   (1) Developing a unified set of housing-related goals  
17                   and priorities that serve as a framework for executive  
18                   departments or agencies in the development of housing plans.

19                   (2) Working in collaboration with executive departments  
20                   or agencies to develop a uniform set of housing goals,  
21                   benchmarks and priorities for this Commonwealth that  
22                   coordinate and complement Federal and State funding to  
23                   maximize the availability of housing throughout this  
24                   Commonwealth.

25                   (3) Developing and updating a State plan no less than  
26                   once every five years for the following purposes:

27                           (i) Preserving rental and homeownership affordable  
28                           units.

29                           (ii) Building new affordable units.

30                           (iii) Housing for the homeless, seniors, veterans,

1 individuals with disabilities and other disadvantaged  
2 groups.

3 (iv) Housing stability programs and services.

4 (v) Strategies for expanding access to housing.

5 (4) Creating and maintaining a consolidated inventory  
6 and resource guide for housing programs and services provided  
7 by executive departments or agencies.

8 (5) Implementing national best practices research that  
9 may be relevant to this Commonwealth and seeking to benchmark  
10 the Commonwealth's housing programs and outcomes against  
11 other states.

12 (6) Conducting research or collecting data relating to  
13 the needs, demands and conditions of affordable and workforce  
14 housing and access to affordable and workforce housing.

15 (7) Ensuring the Commonwealth's comprehensive housing  
16 strategy is developed with the consideration for the needs of  
17 rural, suburban and urban areas in this Commonwealth and  
18 provides the greatest access to safe and affordable housing  
19 throughout this Commonwealth.

20 (8) Serving as a coordinating resource to ensure that  
21 executive departments or agencies are communicating and  
22 coordinating effectively in order to maximize the collective  
23 impact of their work regarding the Commonwealth's  
24 comprehensive housing strategy.

25 (9) Working in collaboration with executive departments  
26 or agencies to advance the Commonwealth's comprehensive  
27 housing strategies.

28 (10) Providing regular updates to the Governor, the  
29 executive departments or agencies and the General Assembly  
30 about the Commonwealth's long-term and short-term housing

1       goals.

2       (c) Access to work of council.--The council shall provide  
3 information about the council's work to the Governor and the  
4 General Assembly and post any relevant information, including  
5 the council's State plan under subsection (b) (3), on a publicly  
6 accessible Internet website.

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