

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1550 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY KLUNK, BERNSTINE, GODSHALL, CAUSER, FREEMAN, WARD, MILLARD, ZIMMERMAN AND WATSON, JUNE 14, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 20, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), entitled "An
2 act authorizing the creation of agricultural areas," further
3 providing for purchase of agricultural conservation
4 easements.

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

7 Section 1. Section 14.1(c)(6)(iv) and (i)(1)(ii) of the act
8 of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the Agricultural
9 Area Security Law, are amended to read:

10 Section 14.1. Purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

11 * * *

12 (c) Restrictions and limitations.--An agricultural
13 conservation easement shall be subject to the following terms,
14 conditions, restrictions and limitations:

15 * * *

16 (6) An agricultural conservation easement shall not
17 prevent:

18 * * *

1 (iv) Construction and use of structures on the
2 subject land [for the landowner's principal residence or
3 for the purpose of providing necessary housing for
4 seasonal or full-time employees] for the purpose of a
5 residence for the landowner, an immediate family member
6 or an employee: Provided, That only one such structure
7 may be constructed on no more than two acres of the
8 subject land during the term of the agricultural
9 conservation easement[.]: and Provided further, That the
10 owner of the land subject to the agricultural
11 conservation easement may relinquish and extinguish the
12 right of construction and use of structures conferred by
13 this clause by recording, in the office for the recording
14 of deeds in the county in which the land subject to the
15 agricultural conservation easement is located, an
16 affidavit evidencing the intent to relinquish and
17 extinguish which includes a reference to the original
18 deed of easement.

19 * * *

20 (i) Subdivision of land after easement purchase.--

21 (1) Each county program shall specify the conditions
22 under which the subdivision of land subject to an
23 agricultural conservation easement may be permitted. In no
24 case, however, shall a county program permit a subdivision
25 which will:

26 * * *

27 (ii) convert land which has been devoted primarily
28 to agricultural use to another primary use, except that a
29 county program [may] shall permit one subdivision for the
30 purpose of [the construction of a principal] a residence

1 for the landowner [or], an immediate family member[.] or
2 an employee, subject to this right being UNLESS THE RIGHT <--
3 TO THE RESIDENCE HAS BEEN relinquished and extinguished
4 in accordance with subsection (c) (6) (iv).

5 * * *

6 Section 2. The amendment of section 14.1(c) (6) (iv) and (i)
7 (1) (ii) of the act shall apply retroactively to December 14,
8 1988.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.