

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 157 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY FEE, SCHMITT, BURGOS, CAUSER, ZIMMERMAN,
HICKERNELL, RYAN, JAMES, BROOKS, MENTZER, R. MACKENZIE,
NEILSON, WHEELAND AND B. MILLER, JANUARY 13, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JANUARY 13, 2021

AN ACT

1 Repealing the act of July 1, 1978 (P.L.584, No.109), entitled
2 "An act establishing an agency to create the linkage
3 necessary for the planning of an economic development system
4 for Pennsylvania, and making an appropriation."

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

7 Section 1. The act of July 1, 1978 (P.L.584, No.109), known
8 as the Milrite Act, is repealed:

9 [AN ACT

10 Establishing an agency to create the linkage necessary for the
11 planning of an economic development system for Pennsylvania,
12 and making an appropriation.

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

15 Section 1. Short title.

16 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Milrite
17 Act."

18 Section 2. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
2 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
3 meanings given to them in this section:

4 "Area labor management committee." An organization formed by
5 and composed of multiple employers of diverse industries and
6 multiple labor organizations, as defined in section 2(5) of the
7 National Labor Relations Act (49 Stat. 449, 29 U.S.C. § 151 et
8 seq.), operating within or focusing upon city, county or
9 contiguous multicounty jurisdictions for the purposes of:

10 (1) Improving communications between labor and
11 management.

12 (2) Providing a forum to discuss and investigate ways to
13 further the goals of increased quality of work life and
14 increased productivity.

15 (3) Discovering ways to improve organizational
16 effectiveness.

17 (4) Finding solutions to problems of mutual concern to
18 both labor and management not susceptible to resolution
19 within the collective bargaining structure.

20 (5) Enhancing economic development within the
21 jurisdiction through labor management cooperation.

22 "Council." The milrite agency established by this act.

23 "Milrite." The acronym formed from the words: "Make Industry
24 and Labor Right in Today's Economy."

25 Section 3. Legislative purpose.

26 The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has served as the keystone
27 in establishing and advancing basic industrial manufacturing in
28 the United States. Today it faces a loss of confidence among key
29 segments of the general public, business and labor communities.
30 It now faces the loss of critical industries and a willing, able

1 and well qualified work force. The development and stability of
2 Pennsylvania's economy is a legitimate public purpose. The
3 Commonwealth cannot remain healthy, socially or economically,
4 when its industrial might and natural resources are
5 underdeveloped and when its people are chronically unemployed or
6 underemployed. There is need for an organization evolving
7 cooperative innovative economic stimuli from the public, private
8 and labor sectors. It should combine the expertise and influence
9 of labor and business with governmental policy makers to act as
10 a catalytic force to create a comprehensive economic development
11 plan and program for implementation of specific development
12 objectives.

13 Aware of the economic and sociological consequences of
14 industrial dislocation the General Assembly calls upon business
15 and labor by enacting an independent labor, business and
16 governmental council to act as a catalytic agent to reduce the
17 fragmentation of our resources and to establish the linkages
18 necessary for a successful planning and economic development
19 delivery system. It shall have the capability to create strategy
20 and implementing machinery to maintain Pennsylvania as a leading
21 industrial State.

22 Section 4. Creation of council.

23 There is hereby created a quasi-public, independent, economic
24 development agency to be known as the Milrite Council.

25 Section 5. Appointment of members, terms, qualifications and
26 removal.

27 (a) The council shall consist of 15 members appointed by the
28 Governor. They shall include one member selected by the
29 Governor, two members selected by the President pro tempore of
30 the Senate, two members selected by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, and five members each from lists provided by
2 the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and the Pennsylvania Chamber of
3 Commerce. The two members selected for appointment by the
4 President pro tempore of the Senate and the two members selected
5 for appointment by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
6 shall be members of the majority and minority parties in each
7 body.

8 (b) The member selected by the Governor, two members
9 selected by the General Assembly, and two members each from the
10 lists submitted by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and Pennsylvania
11 Chamber of Commerce, shall serve for three years, and three
12 members selected from the lists submitted by the Pennsylvania
13 AFL-CIO and the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce shall serve for
14 six years and two members selected by the General Assembly shall
15 serve for six years. Thereafter all members shall be appointed
16 for a term of six years or until a successor is appointed and
17 qualified. Members shall be eligible for unlimited
18 reappointment.

19 (c) The members of the council shall be selected from
20 outstanding leaders in business, and labor who are the policy-
21 making and policy-implementing executives of their respective
22 unions and companies.

23 (d) Members of the council shall receive no compensation but
24 shall be entitled to receive an allowance for expenses incurred
25 in the performance of their duties.

26 (e) The council shall elect one of the nongovernmental
27 members as chairman, who, when present, shall preside at
28 meetings. The council shall also elect one of its members to
29 serve as an alternate chairman to preside when the regular
30 chairman is absent. The chairman and vice chairman shall be

1 elected by the council members for a three-year term. Candidates
2 shall be limited to members representing the labor and business
3 groups. The chairmanship shall be occupied by a member
4 representing one group and the vice chairmanship occupied by a
5 member representing the other group. The council shall designate
6 the officials, committees and subcommittees it deems necessary
7 to carry out the intent of this act.

8 (f) An action or order of the council shall require eight
9 affirmative votes.

10 Section 6. Powers and duties of council.

11 (1) Undertake research and investigation relating to the
12 promotion of the industrial potential of Pennsylvania.

13 (2) Create plans for economic revitalization of
14 Commonwealth industries.

15 (3) Recommend implementation procedures for all plans,
16 maximizing existing mechanisms with proven ability to
17 accomplish tasks, linkages among current programs, business,
18 labor and government insights into practicality and
19 workability of suggested approaches.

20 (4) Encourage and stimulate cooperation and coordination
21 among Federal, State and local programs.

22 (5) Recommend structural changes and updating of
23 economic delivery tools of State Government to the Governor
24 and General Assembly.

25 (6) Draw upon labor, management and government
26 participants to promulgate plans and implement procedures.

27 (7) Recommend organizational structure and participants
28 particularly suited to local needs and conditions.

29 (8) Undertake research, including the hiring of
30 consultants, into the cost of doing business in this

1 Commonwealth, including recommendations for changes and
2 estimates of future costs, with comparative analysis of both
3 intrastate and interstate costs.

4 (9) Undertake research, including the hiring of
5 consultants, to determine if the Commonwealth can more
6 effectively use its mediation services to discourage and
7 shorten the duration of labor management disputes.

8 (10) The council shall have the power to:

9 (i) Enter into contracts.

10 (ii) Appoint, fix compensation of, and prescribe
11 duties of an executive director, secretary and such other
12 personnel as the council deems necessary to accomplish
13 the purposes of this act.

14 (iii) Retain counsel.

15 (iv) Accept grants from public and private sources.

16 (v) Borrow money and issue obligations, secured or
17 unsecured, to acquire, hold, own and pledge or dispose of
18 funds, money, securities and other property, real or
19 personal, tangible or intangible to the extent necessary
20 to carry out the purposes of this act.

21 (vi) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
22 necessary to accomplish the provisions of this act.

23 Agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide their full
24 cooperation to research conducted by the council, including, but
25 not limited to, the provision of information necessary for
26 conducting research under paragraphs (8) and (9).

27 Section 6.1. Area labor management committees.

28 (a) The council shall establish standards and criteria for
29 the selection of area labor management committees to be assisted
30 by grants under subsection (c), solicit proposals from area

1 labor management committees, review and evaluate the relative
2 merits of such proposals and select those proposals for funding
3 which would best meet the standards and criteria established by
4 the council.

5 (b) The council may use a reasonable amount of any
6 appropriation for grants to area labor management committees to
7 hire staff and provide support for area labor management
8 committees and for carrying out the purposes specified in
9 subsection (a). Funds shall be used for staff and other expenses
10 necessary to perform outreach functions to those areas of the
11 Commonwealth not served by area labor management committees.

12 (c) The council shall designate the area labor management
13 committees which are entitled to receive grants pursuant to
14 subsection (a). Funds appropriated to the Milrite Council for
15 grants to area labor management committees shall be made to
16 those committees, in amounts and under conditions specified by
17 the council, and under the following conditions:

18 (1) The grant shall be matched with as much non-State
19 funds as possible, within the overall goal of attempting to
20 establish and maintain as many area labor management
21 committees as possible.

22 (2) While the highest priority for these funds shall be
23 for the establishment of new area labor management
24 committees, the council shall make use of the money available
25 to it for the grants to ensure the continued existence and
26 expansion of existing area labor management committees,
27 including the provisions of technical assistance and
28 nonmatching grants.

29 (d) The council shall report annually to the chairman and
30 minority chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the

1 chairman and minority chairman of the House Committee on
2 Appropriations, the chairman and minority chairman of the Senate
3 Committee on Labor and Industry and the chairman and minority
4 chairman of the House Committee on Labor Relations, the
5 accomplishments and specific expenditures of each area labor
6 management committee funded under subsections (a) and (c)
7 including, but not limited to, salaries, rent, contracts and
8 other operational costs.

9 Section 7. Limited duration.

10 The council shall continue with its statutory function and
11 duties until December 31, 1994, when it shall terminate and go
12 out of existence unless reestablished or continued by the
13 General Assembly. Evaluation, review, termination,
14 reestablishment and continuation of the agency shall be
15 conducted pursuant to the provisions of the act of December 22,
16 1981 (P.L.508, No.142), known as the "Sunset Act."

17 Section 8. Appropriation.

18 The sum of \$200,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
19 is specifically appropriated to the council for the fiscal year
20 July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979 for the purpose of carrying out
21 the provisions of this act.

22 Section 9. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect in 60 days.]

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.