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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2040 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY MILNE, MURT, SCAVELLO AND SCHLOSSBERG,  
FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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AN ACT

1 Establishing a hydrogen fuel cell collaboration program;  
2 providing for powers and duties of the Department of  
3 Environmental Protection and for grants; requiring a report  
4 by the department; and making an appropriation.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Hydrogen Fuel  
9 Cell Collaboration Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of  
15 the Commonwealth.

16 "Hydrogen fuel cell." Any electrochemical device that  
17 converts chemical energy in a hydrogen-rich fuel directly into  
18 electricity, heat and water without combustion.

1 "Institution of higher education." Any public or private  
2 institution within this Commonwealth authorized by the  
3 Department of Education to grant an associate of arts degree or  
4 higher academic degree.

5 "Nonprofit corporation." Any business entity organized under  
6 15 Pa.C.S. Pt. II Subpt. C (relating to nonprofit corporations)  
7 located in this Commonwealth.

8 "Qualified business." Any business, located within this  
9 Commonwealth, engaged in the research, development or production  
10 of hydrogen fuel cells.

11 Section 3. Hydrogen fuel cell collaboration program.

12 (a) Establishment.--A hydrogen fuel cell collaboration  
13 program is established in the department for the purpose of  
14 research into the technical and cost barriers associated with  
15 the commercialization and adaptation of hydrogen fuel cell  
16 technology. The collaboration shall consist of a partnership  
17 among one or more qualified businesses and one or more nonprofit  
18 corporations or institutions of higher education.

19 (b) Appropriation.--The sum of \$5,000,000 is hereby  
20 appropriated from the General Fund to the department to award  
21 grants under this act.

22 (c) Grant limits.--Grant funding under this act may not  
23 exceed \$500,000 per partnership and are to be matched on a ratio  
24 of one to one by the grant recipients.

25 (d) Application.--On or before January 1, 2015, a  
26 partnership may submit to the department an application for  
27 funding under this act. The application shall be on a form  
28 provided by the department and shall include all of the  
29 following:

30 (1) A list of partners in the collaboration.

1           (2) The name and address of each partner.

2           (3) The name and address of the coordinator or executive  
3           director of the partnership.

4           (4) Such other information as the department may  
5           require.

6           (e) Review and award.--The department shall review the  
7           application. Upon being satisfied that the application is  
8           complete and accurate, the department shall approve the  
9           application and award the grant money to the partnership.

10          Section 4. Report and recommendations.

11          The committee shall make a report of the program listing the  
12          collaborations that were funded under this act, a brief  
13          description of the nature of their research and the amount of  
14          funding each collaboration received, as well as recommendations  
15          for improving upon the program within one year of awarding the  
16          first grants under this act and each subsequent year thereafter,  
17          to the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Minority Leader  
18          of the Senate, the chairman and minority chairman of the  
19          Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the Senate, the  
20          Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of  
21          the House of Representatives and the chairman and minority  
22          chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of  
23          the House of Representatives.

24          Section 5. Effective date.

25          This act shall take effect immediately.