
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 797 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, RYAN, T. DAVIS, JAMES, MILLARD AND
HERSHEY, MARCH 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MARCH 8, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in municipal authorities, further
3 providing for purposes and powers.

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

6 Section 1. Section 5607(b) of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:
8 § 5607. Purposes and powers.

9 * * *

10 (b) Limitations.--This section is subject to the following
11 limitations:

12 * * *

13 (4) An authority located in a third class home rule
14 county that owns property in a sixth class county for
15 purposes of watershed management under section 5615 (relating
16 to acquisition of lands, water and water rights) may not
17 develop the property without approval of the residents of the
18 municipality in which the watershed is located and which

1 approval must be granted through a referendum. At the request
2 of the authority, the municipal government shall place a
3 ballot question on the next general election. The question
4 shall read: Are you in favor of (insert authority name here)
5 developing the watershed property they own located in (insert
6 name of municipal body) for the purpose of (explanation of
7 project). If the referendum is approved, the authority may
8 proceed with the project. If the referendum fails, the
9 authority may not proceed with the project and may not
10 request a ballot initiative again on the matter for five
11 years.

12 * * *

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