
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 832 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY YAW, LAUGHLIN, LANGERHOLC, AUMENT, VOGEL, CULVER
AND BAKER, JUNE 20, 2023

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, JUNE 20, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in boards and offices, establishing
3 the Independent Energy Office.

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

6 Section 1. Part V of Title 71 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 43

9 INDEPENDENT ENERGY OFFICE

10 Sec.

11 4301. Definitions.

12 4302. Office established.

13 4303. Duties of office.

14 4304. Committee.

15 4305. Appointment.

16 4306. Powers and duties of director.

17 4307. Records.

18 § 4301. Definitions.

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

4 "Committee." The Independent Energy Office Selection and
5 Organization Committee.

6 "Director." The Director of the Independent Energy Office.

7 "Office." The Independent Energy Office established under
8 section 4302 (relating to office established).

9 § 4302. Office established.

10 The Independent Energy Office is established as a nonpartisan
11 independent agency.

12 § 4303. Duties of office.

13 (a) Mandatory.--The office shall:

14 (1) Plan recommendations that cover coal, natural gas
15 and oil, electric power, energy efficiency, solar, wind,
16 hydro, geothermal, biomass, landfill gas and renewable
17 natural gas.

18 (2) Analyze policies, regulations and laws that relate
19 to energy generation, production or distribution.

20 (3) Provide at least one Statewide energy report each
21 legislative session presented to the General Assembly.

22 (4) Formulate and review the use of fossil, renewable
23 and energy efficiency initiatives designed to advance energy
24 resource development opportunities and provide energy
25 services to businesses, communities and homeowners in this
26 Commonwealth.

27 (b) Discretionary.--The office may:

28 (1) Provide independent studies on other State energy
29 policies to recommend to the Commonwealth.

30 (2) Track energy use, production and generation

1 statistics from year to year.

2 (3) Work with the General Assembly to establish a
3 Statewide energy plan.

4 § 4304. Committee.

5 The Independent Energy Office Selection and Organization
6 Committee is established within the office. The committee shall
7 create and publish qualifications for director of the office.

8 The committee shall consist of the following members:

9 (1) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

10 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

11 (3) The Majority Leader of the Senate.

12 (4) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

13 (5) The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

14 (6) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

15 (7) The chairperson of the Environmental Resources and
16 Energy Committee of the Senate.

17 (8) The minority chairperson of the Environmental
18 Resources and Energy Committee of the Senate.

19 (9) The chairperson of the Environmental Resources and
20 Energy Committee of the House of Representatives.

21 (10) The minority chairperson of the Environmental
22 Resources and Energy Committee of the House of
23 Representatives.

24 § 4305. Appointment.

25 (a) Director.--The office shall be headed by a director
26 appointed by the committee by May 30, 2025. The appointment
27 shall be made without regard to political affiliation and solely
28 on the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the office
29 based on qualifications published by the committee.

30 (b) Deputy director.--The director shall appoint a deputy

1 director who shall perform such duties as assigned by the
2 director and who shall, during the absence or incapacity of the
3 director or a vacancy, act as the director.

4 (c) Term.--The term of office of the director shall be six
5 years. An individual appointed as director to fill a vacancy
6 prior to the expiration of a term shall serve only for the
7 unexpired portion of that term. An individual serving as
8 director at the expiration of a term may continue to serve until
9 a successor is appointed.

10 (d) Removal.--The director may be removed by a concurrent
11 resolution passed by the Senate and the House of
12 Representatives.

13 § 4306. Powers and duties of director.

14 (a) Personnel.--The director shall appoint and fix the
15 compensation of personnel as necessary to carry out the duties
16 and functions of the office. All personnel of the office shall
17 be appointed without regard to political affiliation and solely
18 on the basis of their fitness to perform their duties.

19 (b) Experts and consultants.--In carrying out the duties and
20 functions of the office, the director may procure the temporary
21 or intermittent services of attorneys, experts or consultants or
22 organization thereof by contract.

23 § 4307. Records.

24 The office shall be a legislative agency for purposes of the
25 act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-
26 Know Law.

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