
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1209 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, CHARLTON, CALTAGIRONE, DRISCOLL, RYAN,
SIMS, WARD, V. BROWN, BARRAR, BULLOCK, HELM, MILLARD,
SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, DAVIS, MURT, MEHAFFIE, ROZZI, MADDEN,
DOWLING AND ROEBUCK, APRIL 12, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, APRIL 12, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 27, 1996 (P.L.403, No.58), entitled "An
2 act to enhance community and economic development in this
3 Commonwealth by restructuring certain administrative
4 functions and entities; changing the name of the Department
5 of Commerce to the Department of Community and Economic
6 Development; transferring functions of the Department of
7 Community Affairs into the Department of Community and
8 Economic Development and other agencies; providing for a
9 Deputy Secretary for Community Affairs and Development in the
10 Department of Community and Economic Development;
11 establishing the Center for Local Government Services and the
12 Local Government Advisory Committee; establishing the Small
13 Business Advocacy Council; conferring powers and duties on
14 the Legislative Reference Bureau; and making repeals,"
15 establishing the Bureau of Business Assistance and providing
16 for its powers and duties.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. The act of June 27, 1996 (P.L.403, No.58), known
20 as the Community and Economic Development Enhancement Act, is
21 amended by adding a chapter to read:

22 CHAPTER 17

23 BUREAU OF BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

24 Section 1701. 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 "Bureau." The Bureau of Business Assistance established
5 under section 1702.

6 "Business liaison." An employee of the bureau who serves as
7 a single point of contact between the Commonwealth and a
8 business or a person seeking to start a business in this
9 Commonwealth.

10 Section 1702. Bureau of Business Assistance.

11 (a) Establishment.--The Bureau of Business Assistance is
12 established in the department to provide guidance and resources
13 regarding doing business in this Commonwealth to all of the
14 following:

15 (1) A business located in this Commonwealth.

16 (2) A person seeking to start a business in this
17 Commonwealth.

18 (3) A business seeking to relocate to this Commonwealth.

19 (b) Offices.--The bureau shall consist of the following
20 offices:

21 (1) The Office of Small Business Assistance, which shall
22 assist businesses with 100 or fewer employees.

23 (2) The Office of Large Business Assistance, which shall
24 assist businesses with over 100 employees.

25 Section 1703. Business liaisons.

26 (a) General rule.--Within the Office of Small Business
27 Assistance and the Office of Large Business Assistance, the
28 bureau shall employ business liaisons.

29 (b) Powers and duties.--A business liaison shall have the
30 following powers and duties:

1 (1) Assist a business in applying for and navigating a
2 tax credit, grant, rebate or other assistance program
3 established by the department.

4 (2) Assist a business in complying with a State law or
5 regulation.

6 (3) Assist a business in paying an appropriate tax or
7 fee.

8 (4) Work with a Commonwealth agency, commission or
9 political subdivision to assist a business.

10 Section 1704. Report.

11 The bureau shall submit a report on January 1 of each year to
12 the Senate and the House of Representatives on the following:

13 (1) The number of businesses served by the bureau over
14 the past year, including a breakdown of small businesses
15 versus large businesses.

16 (2) The types of businesses assisted.

17 (3) The types of assistance provided.

18 (4) An estimate of the number of new jobs created by
19 businesses that used the bureau's services.

20 (5) Recommendations, if any, to increase cooperation
21 among Commonwealth agencies and political subdivisions on
22 business assistance matters.

23 (6) Findings on why businesses opted not to relocate to
24 this Commonwealth.

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