
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 376 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, SCHWANK, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, MILLER, SAVAL,
SANTARSIERO, COSTA, DILLON, CAPPELLETTI, BREWSTER,
TARTAGLIONE, KANE, KEARNEY AND COMITTA, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

REFERRED TO URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,
17 and commissions; providing for judicial administration; and
18 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation
19 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of
20 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be
21 determined," establishing the Commonwealth Housing Council;
22 and providing for duties of council.

23 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
24 hereby enacts as follows:

25 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known
26 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding an
27 article to read:

1 ARTICLE XXVIII-J

2 COMMONWEALTH HOUSING COUNCIL

3 Section 2801-J. Scope of article.

4 This article establishes the Commonwealth Housing Council.

5 Section 2802-J. Definitions.

6 The following words and phrases when used in this article
7 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
8 context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 "Council." The Commonwealth Housing Council established
10 under section 2803-J.

11 Section 2803-J. Establishment of council.

12 The Commonwealth Housing Council is established.

13 Section 2804-J. Purpose of council.

14 The council shall coordinate with executive departments and
15 agencies regarding the Commonwealth's housing policies.

16 Section 2805-J. Membership of council.

17 The council shall consist of the following members:

18 (1) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development
19 or a designee.

20 (2) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.

21 (3) The Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Housing
22 Finance Agency or a designee.

23 (4) The Secretary of the Budget or a designee.

24 (5) A member of the Senate appointed by the President
25 pro tempore of the Senate.

26 (6) A member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
27 Leader of the Senate.

28 (7) A member of the House of Representatives appointed
29 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

30 (8) A member of the House of Representatives appointed

1 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

2 (9) The mayor of a city of the first class or a designee
3 with experience in housing.

4 (10) The county executive of a county of the second
5 class or a designee with experience in housing.

6 (11) One member representing county government with
7 experience in housing appointed by the Governor from a list
8 of 16 individuals provided by the county commissioners or
9 county executives of Adams, Berks, Centre, Cumberland,
10 Dauphin, Fulton, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster,
11 Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, Union and York Counties.

12 (12) One member of county government with experience in
13 housing appointed by the Governor from a list of 18
14 individuals provided by the county commissioners or county
15 executives of Bradford, Carbon, Clinton, Columbia,
16 Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montour,
17 Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Sullivan,
18 Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne and Wyoming Counties.

19 (13) One member of county government with experience in
20 housing appointed by the Governor from a list of six
21 individuals provided by the county commissioners or county
22 executives of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery
23 and Northampton Counties.

24 (14) One member of county government with experience in
25 housing appointed by the Governor from a list of 13
26 individuals provided by the county commissioners or county
27 executives of Armstrong, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield,
28 Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Mercer,
29 Venango and Warren Counties.

30 (15) One member of county government with experience in

1 housing appointed by the Governor from a list of 12
2 individuals provided by the county commissioners or county
3 executives of Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria,
4 Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington and
5 Westmoreland Counties.

6 Section 2806-J. Administration of council.

7 (a) Organization.--The Governor shall select a member of the
8 council to serve as chairperson. The members of the council
9 shall select from among themselves any other officers as the
10 council deems necessary.

11 (b) Quorum.--A majority of the members of the council shall
12 constitute a quorum. A majority of the members of the council
13 shall be necessary to take an action of the council. The number
14 required for a majority of the members of the council under this
15 subsection shall be reduced if there is a vacancy on the
16 council.

17 (c) Meetings.--The council shall hold its first meeting
18 within 90 days of the effective date of this subsection. The
19 council shall meet no less than once a quarter.

20 (d) Initial appointments and vacancies.--

21 (1) An appointing authority under section 2805-J shall
22 appoint initial members to the council within 60 days of the
23 effective date of this subsection.

24 (2) A member of the council shall serve a term of three
25 years and may be reappointed for no more than two consecutive
26 terms.

27 (3) A member of the council appointed under section
28 2805-J(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8) shall serve a
29 term concurrent with the appointing authority.

30 (4) If a vacancy occurs on the council, the designating

1 or appointing authority shall fill the vacancy in accordance
2 with section 2805-J.

3 (e) Administrative support.--The Office of the Budget shall
4 provide administrative services and staff to the council.

5 (f) Compensation.--The members of the council shall not
6 receive compensation for service on the council.

7 (g) Cooperation.--Each executive department or agency shall
8 cooperate with the council in fulfilling the council's duties
9 under section 2807-J.

10 Section 2807-J. Duties of council.

11 (a) Housing strategies.--The council shall develop the
12 Commonwealth's comprehensive housing strategy that may be used
13 by executive departments or agencies.

14 (b) Duties.--The council shall have the following duties:

15 (1) Developing a unified set of housing-related goals
16 and priorities that serve as a framework for executive
17 departments or agencies in the development of housing plans.

18 (2) Working in collaboration with executive departments
19 or agencies to develop a uniform set of housing goals,
20 benchmarks and priorities for this Commonwealth that
21 coordinate and complement Federal and State funding to
22 maximize the availability of housing throughout this
23 Commonwealth.

24 (3) Developing and updating a State plan no less than
25 once every five years for the following purposes:

26 (i) Preserving rental and homeownership affordable
27 units.

28 (ii) Building new affordable units.

29 (iii) Housing for the homeless, seniors, veterans,
30 individuals with disabilities and other disadvantaged

1 groups.

2 (iv) Housing stability programs and services.

3 (v) Strategies for expanding access to housing.

4 (4) Creating and maintaining a consolidated inventory
5 and resource guide for housing programs and services provided
6 by executive departments or agencies.

7 (5) Implementing national best practices research that
8 may be relevant to this Commonwealth and seeking to benchmark
9 the Commonwealth's housing programs and outcomes against
10 other states.

11 (6) Conducting research or collecting data relating to
12 the needs, demands and conditions of affordable and workforce
13 housing and access to affordable and workforce housing.

14 (7) Ensuring the Commonwealth's comprehensive housing
15 strategy is developed with the consideration for the needs of
16 rural, suburban and urban areas in this Commonwealth and
17 provides the greatest access to safe and affordable housing
18 throughout this Commonwealth.

19 (8) Serving as a coordinating resource to ensure that
20 executive departments or agencies are communicating and
21 coordinating effectively in order to maximize the collective
22 impact of their work regarding the Commonwealth's
23 comprehensive housing strategy.

24 (9) Working in collaboration with executive departments
25 or agencies to advance the Commonwealth's comprehensive
26 housing strategies.

27 (10) Providing regular updates to the Governor, the
28 executive departments or agencies and the General Assembly
29 about the Commonwealth's long-term and short-term housing
30 goals.

1 (c) Access to work of council.--The council shall provide
2 information about the council's work to the Governor and the
3 General Assembly and post any relevant information, including
4 the council's State plan under subsection (b) (3), on a publicly
5 accessible Internet website.

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