
LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 886 **Session of**
1919.

INTRODUCED BY MR. JONES, MARCH 11, 1919.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COUNTIES AND TOWNSHIPS,
MARCH 11, 1919.

*** AN ACT**

Dividing the counties of this Commonwealth into eight classes designating the mode of ascertaining and changing the classification of counties and providing for the regulation of their affairs according to their respective classes

1 Whereas One of the justices of the Supreme Court in
2 a concurring opinion expressed the thought that counties
3 had never been classified as had cities and

4 Whereas The General Assembly has heretofore for the
5 purposes of legislation on particular subjects classified coun-
6 ties without regard to any uniformity or general classifi-
7 cation many of which acts have been declared unconstitu-
8 tional and

9 Whereas The great diversity in population and the
10 physical condition of the several counties requires separate
11 laws for their government and the regulation of their
12 affairs therefore

1 Section 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly*
3 *met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same* That
4 for the purposes of legislation and the regulation of their
5 affairs counties of this Commonwealth now in existence and
6 those hereafter erected shall be divided into eight classes
7 as follows

8 Those having a population of one million five hundred
9 thousand inhabitants and over shall constitute the first
10 class

11 Those having a population of eight hundred thousand
12 and more but less than one million five hundred thou-
13 sand inhabitants shall constitute the second class

14 Those having a population of two hundred and fifty
15 thousand and more but less than eight hundred thousand
16 inhabitants shall constitute the third class

17 Those having a population of one hundred fifty thou-
18 sand and more but less than two hundred and fifty
19 thousand inhabitants shall constitute the fourth class

20 Those having a population of one hundred thousand
21 and more but less than one hundred fifty thousand in-
22 habitants shall constitute the fifth class

23 Those having a population of fifty thousand and more
24 but less than one hundred thousand inhabitants shall con-
25 stitute the sixth class

26 Those having a population of twenty thousand and more
27 but less than fifty thousand inhabitants shall constitute the
28 seventh class

1 Those having a population of less than twenty thou-
2 sand inhabitants shall constitute the eighth class

3 Section 2 The classification of counties shall be ascer-
4 tained and fixed according to their population by refer-
5 ence from time to time to the last preceding decennial
6 United States census Whenever it shall appear by any
7 such census that any county has attained a population
8 entitling it to an advance in classification as herein pre-
9 scribed it shall be the duty of the Governor under the
10 great seal of this Commonwealth to certify that fact ac-
11 cordingly which certificate shall be forwarded to the re-
12 corder of deeds of the proper county and be recorded
13 in his office

14 Section 3 The affairs of counties shall hereafter be
15 legislated for and regulated by the general laws of this
16 Commonwealth applicable to all counties or to particular
17 classes as herein fixed and appointed All laws hereafter
18 adopted by the General Assembly for one or more of
19 the classes herein fixed and appointed shall be deemed to
20 be general laws

21 Section 4 All acts and parts of acts of assembly
22 relative to the several counties of this Commonwealth in
23 force prior to the adoption of this act shall remain in
24 force in the same manner and with the same effect in
25 the several counties as prior to the adoption of this act