

---

**LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

---

**FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.****No. 1053**      **Session of**  
**1919.**

---

**INTRODUCED BY MR. HESS, MARCH 24, 1919.**

---

---

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES,**  
**MARCH 25, 1919.**

---

**AN ACT**

To provide for the establishment and government of six correctional institutions to be known as the Pennsylvania State Farm of the first second third fourth fifth and sixth districts respectively providing for the care and confinement of prisoners therein and the transfer of prisoners thereto and making an appropriation

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 there are hereby established under the provisions of this  
5 act six correctional institutions for violators of the law  
6 to be known as the Pennsylvania State Farm of the  
7 First District the Pennsylvania State Farm of the Second  
8 District the Pennsylvania State Farm of the Third Dis-  
9 trict the Pennsylvania State Farm of the Fourth District  
10 the Pennsylvania State Farm of the Fifth District and  
11 the Pennsylvania State Farm of the Sixth District

1 Section 2 The first district shall comprise the county  
2 of Philadelphia

3 The second district shall comprise the county of Alle-  
4 gheny

5 The third district shall comprise the counties of Berks  
6 Bucks Chester Dauphin Delaware Lancaster Lebanon Lehigh  
7 Montgomery Northampton and Schuylkill

8 The fourth district shall comprise the counties of Brad-  
9 ford Carbon Columbia Lackawanna Luzerne Lycoming Mon-  
10 roe Montour Northumberland Pike Sullivan Susquehanna Tioga  
11 Wayne and Wyoming

12 The fifth district shall comprise the counties of Adams  
13 Bedford Blair Cambria Cameron Centre Clearfield Clinton  
14 Cumberland Elk Franklin Fulton Huntingdon Juniata Mc-  
15 Kean Mifflin Perry Potter Snyder Somerset Union and  
16 York

17 The sixth district shall comprise the counties of Arm-  
18 strong Beaver Butler Clarion Crawford Erie Fayette Forest  
19 Greene Indiana Jefferson Lawrence Mercer Venango Warren  
20 Washington and Westmoreland

21 Section 3 Upon the approval of this act a commis-  
22 sion shall be created which shall be composed of five  
23 reputable citizens of the Commonwealth to be appointed  
24 by the Governor not more than three of whom shall be  
25 members of the same political party and such Commission  
26 is hereby authorized by a majority vote to select suit-  
27 able sites for the State farms In the selection of the  
28 sites for the State farms for the first or second dis-  
29 tricts the commission shall not be restricted in locating

1 the same within the said district The commission shall  
2 serve without compensation but all of their expenses actu-  
3 ally and necessarily incurred shall be paid The Commis-  
4 sion shall purchase six tracts of nor more than five  
5 hundred acres of land in each tract the title to which  
6 shall be good and sufficient and approved by the Attor-  
7 ney General and such title shall be taken in the name  
8 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

9 Section 4 In the selection of sites the commission  
10 shall take into consideration the objects and purposes of  
11 the institutions and as many as practicable of the fol-  
12 lowing enumerated advantages and resources the land selected  
13 and purchased shall be of varied topography with natural  
14 resources with advantages for varied forms of husbandry  
15 fruit growing and stock raising for brick making and for  
16 the preparation of road and paving material and shall  
17 have good railroad drainage sewage and water facilities

18 Section 5 Upon the selection of location and sites  
19 and the purchase of land for the State farms the  
20 Governor shall appoint a board of trustees for each of  
21 said institutions to consist of five members who shall be  
22 reputable citizens of Pennsylvania not more three of  
23 whom shall belong to the same political party Such  
24 trustees shall serve without compensation but their ex-  
25 penses actually and necessarily incurred shall be paid  
26 One member of each board shall be appointed for one  
27 year one for two years one for three years one for  
28 four years and one for five years Thereafter all ap-  
29 pointments shall be for a term of five years respectively

1 In case of a vacancy from any cause the appointment  
2 to fill such vacancy shall be made by the Governor for  
3 the unexpired term The Governor may remove any of  
4 the trustees for misconduct incompetency or neglect of duty  
5 after opportunity shall be given him or them to be  
6 heard upon written charges

7 Section 6 All buildings constructed in pursuance of  
8 this act shall be plain and inexpensive in character and  
9 the labor in constructing such buildings improvements and  
10 facilities shall be supplied by the persons committed to  
11 the institution or confined in the State penal and re-  
12 formatory institutions so far as found practicable

13 The boards of trustees shall procure all necessary  
14 materials erect and equip such buildings employ such  
15 skilled labor as cannot be furnished by the prisoners  
16 committed thereto or by prisoners in the State peniten-  
17 tiaries or the Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory at Hunt-  
18 ington and provide all proper facilities for their use and  
19 for the practical use of the institution

20 When the board of trustees of the States farms  
21 shall have made all preliminary arrangements for the con-  
22 struction of the buildings and equipment they shall notify  
23 the Governor who shall issue a proclamation thereon and  
24 thereafter prisoners having more than thirty days to  
25 serve may be transferred to the State farm from any  
26 jail or workhouse in that district on the order of the Governor

27 Section 7 The boards of inspectors of the Pennsyl-  
28 vania State penitentiaries and of the Pennsylvania In-  
29 dustrial Reformatory at Huntingdon on request from a

1 board of trustees of a State farm are authorized to  
2 transfer to a State farm from their respective institutions  
3 any prisoners of special or mechanical ability therein who  
4 may be found in the judgment of such board and the  
5 board of trustees of the State farm suitable for the  
6 purpose and provide transportation and proper guards there-  
7 for and while such prisoners remain at the State farm  
8 they shall be subject to the orders of the managers or  
9 inspectors of the institution from which they were trans-  
10 ferred as to their return and in all other respects ex-  
11 cept as to discipline and government While at such  
12 State farm they shall be under the control discipline and  
13 government and subject to the orders of the board of  
14 trustees of the State farm and its executive officers

15 The prisoners transferred for the purpose of supplying  
16 labor as aforesaid from the State penitentiaries and the  
17 Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory at Huntingdon shall be  
18 apportioned as to number by agreement of the managers  
19 or inspectors of said institutions respectively and in case  
20 they cannot agree thereon the Governor is authorized to  
21 determine the number and kind of mechanics or prisoners  
22 of special ability to be transferred from each of said  
23 institutions and cause the same to be transferred

24 The expense of transportation and transfer of the  
25 prisoners used in the construction of buildings and equip-  
26 ment to and from the State farms shall be paid on  
27 bills rendered to the Auditor General out of the fund  
28 provided for the establishment of the State farms

1 The maintenance of such prisoners as are transferred  
2 from the State penitentiaries or reformatory shall be paid  
3 by the institution from which they are transferred but the  
4 cost of such maintenance in excess of the average per  
5 capita cost of the prisoners at the institution from which  
6 they are transferred shall re-funded to the said institu-  
7 tion from the fund appropriated for the State farms

8 Section 8 When any State farm shall be equipped  
9 with buildings and other facilities sufficient in the opinion  
10 of its board of trustees to receive prisoners such board  
11 of trustees shall notify the Governor and upon such  
12 notification the Governor shall by proclamation declare the  
13 State farm ready to receive prisoners and thereafter it  
14 shall be the duty of all judges of courts of record of  
15 that district to commit thereto all persons convicted of  
16 the violation of any law of this State the punishment  
17 for which now consists of imprisonment in any county  
18 jail or workhouse whose term of imprisonment shall be  
19 for a period of not less than thirty days All such  
20 commitments shall be to the State farm of the respective  
21 district

22 Section 9 The cost of transportation of persons com-  
23 mitted to the State farms shall be paid by the counties  
24 respectively from which the prisoners is committed and  
25 the sheriff of the county shall receive the same mileage  
26 and fees for prisoners committed to the State farm as  
27 are now allowed by law for transporting prisoners com-  
28 mitted to the State penitentiaries and reformatory When  
29 any prisoner is discharged from a State farm the su-

1 perintendent or warden thereof shall procure for him a  
2 railroad ticket to any point to which said prisoner may  
3 desire to go not farther from said State farm than the  
4 point from which he was sentenced and it shall be the  
5 duty of the superintendent or warden or his duly au-  
6 thorized agent to accompany the prisoner to the railroad  
7 station deliver the ticket to the proper railroad conductor  
8 and formally release the prisoner on the train which he  
9 takes for his destination

10 Section 10 In case at any time it shall be found  
11 that any State farm can accommodate and care for more  
12 prisoners than are of the class above designated the  
13 Governor may order to be transferred to such a State  
14 farm from the State penitentiaries the Pennsylvania In-  
15 dustrial Reformatory at Huntingdon or any other State  
16 farm such prisoners as he and the boards of any such  
17 institutions shall find can be better cared for at such  
18 State farm Such prisoners so transferred may be returned  
19 to the institution from which they were transferred when-  
20 ever the Governor and the board of trustees of the  
21 State farm shall find such return necessary and ex-  
22 pedient

23 Section 11 It shall be the purpose of the State  
24 farm to employ the prisoners committed or transferred  
25 thereto in work on or about the buildings and farm  
26 and in growing produce the supplies for its own use or  
27 for the Commonwealth or for any political division thereof  
28 or for any public or charitable institution owned or  
29 managed and controlled by the Commonwealth or any

1 political division thereof in preparation of road material  
2 and in making brick tile paving material and the manu-  
3 facture of other products or material as may be found  
4 practicable for the use of the State or any political  
5 subdivision therein and for the proper and healthful em-  
6 ployment of such prisoners

7 Section 12 For the purpose of the land contemplated  
8 in this act there is hereby appropriated for the use of  
9 the commission and board of trustees created by this act  
10 the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) or  
11 so much thereof as may be necessary twenty thousand  
12 dollars (\$20,000) of which shall be made available June  
13 first one thousand nine hundred nineteen for the taking  
14 of options and the balance January first one thousand  
15 nine hundred twenty For the erection of buildings and  
16 other construction and development contemplated by this  
17 act and the running expenses of the commission and the  
18 boards and the salaries and expenses of executive officers  
19 of the institution the sum of eighty thousand dollars  
20 (\$80,000) or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby  
21 appropriated to be available June first one thousand nine  
22 hundred nineteen Any part of the appropriation for the  
23 purchase of land which shall not be needed therefor  
24 shall be placed in the fund for the erection of build-  
25 ings and other construction and development Payment of  
26 such moneys shall be on requisition of the commission  
27 and on warrant of the Auditor General

28 Section 13 The six boards of trustees shall each se-  
29 lect one representative who shall meet monthly and acting

1 as a body shall adopt and amend or revoke or add to  
2 any time rules governing the State farms. Such rules  
3 shall be subject to the approval of the Governor and  
4 shall not be inconsistent with the constitution or laws of  
5 the Commonwealth or of the United States.

6 Section 14. Each board of trustees shall appoint a  
7 superintendent of the farm and such other employes as  
8 the board may deem proper, all of whom shall be bona  
9 fide citizens of Pennsylvania. The compensation and duties  
10 of the superintendent and employes shall be fixed by the  
11 board.