

No. 2002-18

AN ACT

SB 985

Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled, as amended, "An act relating to counties of the first, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto; relating to imposition of excise taxes by counties, including authorizing imposition of an excise tax on the rental of motor vehicles by counties of the first class; and providing for regional renaissance initiatives," further providing for expenses of elected county officers attending the annual meetings of their associations and for other meeting expenses paid by the counties.

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

Section 1. Section 443 of the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, amended November 23, 1994 (P.L.640, No.98), is amended to read:

Section 443. Expenses of Attending Members to be Paid by County; Time Limit on Meetings.—(a) The actual expenses of all authorized elected county officers attending the annual meetings of their associations shall be paid by the several counties out of the general county fund. Each of these officers, except the county commissioners, shall be reimbursed for actual expenses not to exceed **[one hundred ten dollars (\$110)] one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175)** per day for the number of days specified in subsection (b) of this section, together with mileage going to and returning from such meeting and the registration fee. *The sum of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175) per day as set forth in this subsection shall be adjusted annually by the annual increase in the cost of living as determined annually by the United States Department of Labor.*

(a.1) The actual expenses of all authorized nonelected county officers and employes attending the annual meetings of their associations may be paid by the several counties out of the county general fund. Each of these officers may be reimbursed for actual expenses in an amount not to exceed **[one hundred ten dollars (\$110)] one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175)** per day for the number of days specified in subsection (b) of this section, together with mileage going to and returning from such meetings and the registration fee. *The sum of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175) per day shall be adjusted annually as set forth in subsection (a) of this section.*

(a.2) Every delegate attending the annual meeting shall submit to the county an itemized account of expenses incurred at the meeting. The county may authorize employes to be compensated at their regular employe rate during their attendance at the annual meeting. The actual expenses for elected officers shall, and for nonelected officers may, be paid for the number of days specified in subsection (b). In addition, elected county

officers shall receive, and nonelected county officers and employes may receive, actual expenses not to exceed **[one hundred ten dollars (\$110)] *one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175)*** per day for each day not in excess of two in going to and returning from such meeting. *The sum of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175) per day shall be adjusted annually as set forth above.*

(b) The annual meeting of the association of county commissioners, county solicitors and chief clerks shall not exceed four days, that of the district attorneys shall not exceed three days, and those of all other State associations shall not exceed three days in every case, exclusive of the time spent in traveling to and from the said meetings.

Section 2. Section 444 of the act, amended December 12, 1980 (P.L.1174, No.216), is amended to read:

Section 444. Other Meeting Expenses Paid by Counties.—(a) In addition to the expenses hereinbefore authorized, the necessary expenses of the annual meetings of the associations hereinafter named, including annual association dues, printing, committee expenses and stenographical expense, shall be paid in equal parts by the several counties whose officers are members of the respective associations.

(b) In the case of county commissioners, county solicitor and county clerk, county controllers, county auditors, sheriffs, register of wills, clerks of orphans' courts, county treasurers, recorders of deeds, prothonotaries, clerks of courts, public defenders, district attorneys, jury commissioners and coroners, the portion of the annual expenses charged to each county of the third and fourth class shall not exceed **[four hundred dollars (\$400)] *six hundred dollars (\$600)***, to each county of the fifth and sixth class, **[three hundred dollars (\$300)] *five hundred dollars (\$500)***, to each county of the seventh and eighth class, **[two hundred dollars (\$200)] *four hundred dollars (\$400)***, and in the case of the directors of veterans' affairs the portion charged to each county shall not exceed **[fifty dollars (\$50)] *one hundred dollars (\$100)***, and in the case of the probation officers an annual membership subscription not exceeding **[six dollars (\$6)] *ten dollars (\$10)*** per member shall be paid by the county, and shall be in lieu of the expenses hereinbefore in this section provided for other county officers.

Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 2nd day of April, A.D. 2002.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER