

No. 270

AN ACT

Amending the act of May ten, one thousand nine hundred thirty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 111), entitled "An act relating to, and providing for, the promotion and development of business, industry and commerce in the Commonwealth; conferring powers and duties upon the Department of Commerce and other agencies of the Commonwealth; abolishing the Pennsylvania State Publicity Commission, terminating the terms of its members and conferring its powers upon, and transferring and appropriating the balance of its current appropriation to, the Department of Commerce; and repealing certain laws," granting to and imposing certain powers and duties on the Department of Commerce relating to planning programs, assistance and other work heretofore administered by the State Planning Board, and transferring records and equipment relative thereto.

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

Commerce Law.

Section 1. Section two, act of May ten, one thousand nine hundred thirty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 111), known as the "Commerce Law," is amended to read:

Section 2, act of May 10, 1939, P. L. 111, amended.

Section 2. For several years an acute economic emergency has existed in *certain parts of this Commonwealth*, threatening the health, public safety, welfare and future prosperity of the people. Thousands of our citizens are without employment through no fault of their own, and appropriations required for their assistance are a heavy burden on the Commonwealth and her people. Such economic conditions demand the adoption of a public policy and an administrative program to alleviate these conditions and prevent their recurrence, which can be remedied only as business, industry, and commerce are encouraged, rehabilitated, developed, and expanded, *and only as the Commonwealth's communities and regions solve their physical development problems and make themselves attractive, convenient and economical areas in which to live and work.* [Since no department of the State government is now devoted to the solution of these conditions, it] *It is necessary that a department be empowered to effectuate such a program. Accordingly, the powers and duties hereinafter enumerated in this act are vested in the Department of Commerce.*

Department of Commerce created.

Section 2. Section three of the act, amended July seven, one thousand nine hundred forty-one (Pamphlet Laws 275), is amended by adding, at the end thereof, a new clause to read:

Section 3, act of May 10, 1939, P. L. 111, amended July 7, 1941, P. L. 275, further amended by adding a new clause (13).

Section 3. The Department of Commerce shall have the power, and its duty shall be:

(13) *To provide planning assistance and to do planning work, including surveys, land use studies, urban renewal plans, technical services and other elements of*

comprehensive planning programs, in and for any counties, cities, boroughs, townships, towns or regions and, for this purpose, to accept and utilize any funds, personnel or other assistance made available by the Federal government or any of its agencies, or made available from any other source, public or private, and, notwithstanding the provisions of any other law and for the purposes of receiving and using Federal planning grants for provision of urban planning assistance, to serve as the official State planning agency of the Commonwealth and, to these ends, to enter into agreements or contracts regarding the acceptance or utilization of such funds or assistance for any of the purposes authorized by this act.

Act of May 10, 1939, P. L. 111, amended by adding a new section 7.1.

Transfer of contracts, etc., to the Department of Commerce.

Act effective immediately.

Section 3. The act is amended by adding, after section seven thereof, a new section to read:

Section 7.1. All contracts, classified data files, maps, air photographs and equipment, heretofore used by the State Planning Board in the exercise of the functions transferred herewith from the Board to the Department of Commerce, are hereby transferred to the Department of Commerce.

Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 22nd day of December, A. D. 1955.

GEORGE M. LEADER

No. 271

AN ACT

Giving the consent of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the acquisition by the United States of America of approximately one thousand two hundred sixty-six acres of land in the Township of Coolbaugh, County of Monroe, Pennsylvania, known as Tobyhanna Signal Depot, and ceding jurisdiction to the United States.

Real property.

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

Grant of land by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the United States of America, located in Monroe County, and known as Tobyhanna Signal Depot.

Section 1. The consent of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is hereby granted; in accordance with the seventeenth clause, eighth section of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, to the acquisition by the United States of America of a tract of land situate in the Township of Coolbaugh, County of Monroe, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, known as the Tobyhanna Signal Depot, bounded and described as follows:

Description.

Beginning at a point in the northwesterly boundary line of the Tobyhanna Signal Depot Military Reservation, which point is North 77 degrees 31 minutes 30