

No. 178

AN ACT

SB 1123

Providing for cooperation with other states, groups of states and the Federal Government to provide and accept assistance in the protection of forests from fire; conferring powers and imposing duties upon the Department of Environmental Resources.

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

Section 1. The preservation of the part of the earth's surface occupied by this Commonwealth is of vital concern to the people of Pennsylvania. Similar concerns are held by the citizens of other states.

The quality of the environment of each is directly dependent upon the maintenance of the quality of the environment of the others. In furtherance of its cooperation with other states and the Federal Government in this respect it is hereby declared to be the policy of this Commonwealth, under certain circumstances, to aid other states, groups of states and Federal agencies and to accept aid therefrom in the protection of forests from the ravages of fire.

Section 2. The Department of Environmental Resources may upon request of any other state or the United States, forward to or receive therefrom, for use under the supervision of such department, except as otherwise provided herein, such of its employees and equipment as it deems necessary to assist in the protection of forests from the ravages of fire.

Section 3. Employees of the Department of Environmental Resources, during their detail to another state or Federal agency to fight forest fires, shall be considered, for all purposes, to be working in the Commonwealth for that department. The supervision of their duties during such detail may, however, be governed by agreement between the department and the state, group of states, or Federal agency to which they are detailed.

Section 4. The Department of Environmental Resources may, in accordance with the travel regulations of such agency, pay the travel expenses of the employees detailed to another state or Federal agency, and may pay travel or living expenses of such employees incurred in connection with their work assignments in the receiving state or area of Federal responsibility. The department may request reimbursement from any state, groups of states or Federal agency requesting assistance for any loss or damage or expense incurred in the operations of any equipment, and for the cost of all materials, transportation wages, salaries and maintenance of employees and equipment incurred in connection with such a request.

Section 5. The Department of Environmental Resources shall, in accordance with its regulations, pay those travel and other expenses of employees or equipment of other states or Federal agencies detailed to assist it in forest fire protection in Pennsylvania incurred in the performance of their work assignments while in this Commonwealth provided such payment is requested by the assisting states, groups of states or Federal agency.

APPROVED—The 20th day of July, A. D. 1974.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 178.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a prominent "T" at the end.

*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*