

## No. 1981-136

## AN ACT

## HB 145

Authorizing the Secretary of Environmental Resources to establish a Volunteers in State Parks and Forests Program and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. The Secretary of Environmental Resources, hereinafter referred to as the secretary, is authorized to recruit, train and accept without regard to the civil service classification laws, rules or regulations, the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of interpretive functions, visitor services, conservation measures and development or other activities in and related to State park and forest areas administered by the secretary through the Bureau of State Parks and Bureau of Forestry.

Section 2. The secretary is authorized to provide for incidental expenses, such as transportation, uniforms, lodging and subsistence.

Section 3. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a volunteer shall not be deemed to be a Commonwealth employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Commonwealth employment, including those relating to hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation and Commonwealth employee benefits.

(b) Volunteers performing work under the terms of this act shall be authorized to operate Commonwealth vehicles and shall be treated for the purposes of automotive and general liability as employees of the Commonwealth.

(c) For the purposes of the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as "The Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation Act," as amended, relating to compensation to employees for work injuries, volunteers under the provisions of this act shall be deemed employees of the Commonwealth within the meaning of the term "employee" as defined in section 104 of said act and the provisions of that law shall apply.

(d) No volunteer shall be assigned to any position presently filled or authorized in the Bureau of State Parks or Bureau of Forestry.

Section 4. The Department of Environmental Resources shall have the power and authority to do all things necessary and expedient to establish and operate a Volunteers in State Parks and Forests Program and to promulgate rules and regulations under this act.

Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 17th day of December, A. D. 1981.

DICK THORNBURGH