

No. 1987-16

AN ACT

HB 689

Providing for the revitalization of rural Pennsylvania; establishing the Center for Rural Pennsylvania; providing for rural education partnerships and adult literacy programs; allocating funds appropriated to the Department of Commerce for a Regional Center for Continuing Education of Health Science Practitioners in western Pennsylvania; making appropriations; and making a repeal.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1. General Provisions

Section 101. Short title.

Chapter 3. Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Section 301. Establishment of Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Section 302. Board of directors.

Section 303. Duties of Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Section 304. Grants.

Section 305. Administrative matters.

Section 306. Data base.

Chapter 5. Rural Education Programs

Subchapter A. Rural Education Partnerships

Section 501. Purposes.

Section 502. Eligibility; funding.

Subchapter B. Rural Adult Literacy Program

Section 531. Purpose of program.

Chapter 7. Regional Center for Continuing Education

Section 701. Regional Center for Continuing Education.

Chapter 9. Appropriations

Section 901. Appropriation for Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Section 902. Appropriation to State System of Higher Education.

Section 903. Appropriation to Department of Commerce.

Section 904. Appropriations nonlapsing.

Chapter 11. Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1101. Repeal.

Section 1102. Effective date.

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

CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 101. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Rural Pennsylvania Revitalization Act.

CHAPTER 3
CENTER FOR RURAL PENNSYLVANIA

Section 301. Establishment of Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

There is hereby established the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, which shall be an agency of the General Assembly.

Section 302. Board of directors.

(a) Members.—The Center for Rural Pennsylvania shall be governed by a board of directors which shall consist of 11 members. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from the House of Representatives, one from the majority party and one from the minority party. The President pro tempore of the Senate shall appoint two members from the Senate, one from the majority party and one from the minority party. Two members shall be representatives of universities in the State System of Higher Education. One member shall be from The Pennsylvania State University. One member shall be from the University of Pittsburgh. One member shall be the Director of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development. The Governor shall appoint two members from the following Statewide organizations: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, Pennsylvania Grange Association, Pennsylvania Farmers' Association and Pennsylvania Rural Coalition.

(b) Terms.—The term of office of all members of the board shall be two years. Each member shall be eligible to be reappointed to the board.

(c) Meetings; quorum.—The board shall meet at least every four months, or as often as it deems necessary. Six members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

(d) Expenses.—The members of the board, except for the director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, shall serve without salary or compensation, but shall be entitled to such expenses as are reasonable and necessary to the performance of their duties.

Section 303. Duties of Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

(a) Principal duty.—The Center for Rural Pennsylvania shall administer grants to conduct research on matters related to rural conditions. The role of the center shall be to facilitate and coordinate basic and applied research and service components for faculty, staff and students of those institutions identified in section 304(a) dealing in issues regarding the welfare of rural Pennsylvania.

(b) Regulations.—The board shall promulgate regulations concerning the grant program administered by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Section 304. Grants.

(a) **Eligibility.**—Grants shall be available only to the qualified faculty members of the various colleges and university members of the State System of Higher Education and the current land grant university.

(b) **Amounts.**—No grant shall exceed the sum of \$50,000.

(c) **Subjects.**—The subject areas of the grant program are as follows:

- (1) Rural people and communities.
- (2) Economic development.
- (3) Local government finance and administration.
- (4) Community services.
- (5) Natural resources and environment.
- (6) Educational outreach.
- (7) Rural values and social change.

Section 305. Administrative matters.

(a) **Director.**—The Center for Rural Pennsylvania shall be operated by a director, who shall be selected by the board.

(b) **Duties of director.**—The director shall employ such persons as he or she deems appropriate for the administration of the grant programs authorized by this act. The director shall also make such other expenditures as the board deems necessary, providing that not more than 15% of the appropriation shall be used for administrative expenses.

Section 306. Data base.

(a) **Creation.**—The Center for Rural Pennsylvania shall develop and maintain an appropriate base of knowledge and information about rural conditions and needs. This shall be accomplished through a data base.

(b) **Major areas.**—The data base shall include the following major areas of concern:

- (1) Agriculture.
- (2) Economic development.
- (3) Local government capacity and fiscal stress indicators.
- (4) Transportation.
- (5) Sociodemographics.
- (6) Health care and human services.
- (7) Environment and natural resources.
- (8) Education.
- (9) Condition of the extant local infrastructure of Pennsylvania's rural communities.

(c) **Arrangement.**—The data shall be arranged in such a manner so as to facilitate the monitoring of relationships between and among the various sectors identified for inclusion in the information system.

CHAPTER 5
RURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SUBCHAPTER A
RURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Section 501. Purposes.

The State System of Higher Education, in cooperation with its member universities, shall establish a program of education partnerships to provide outreach and services to rural school districts and other rural groups which will result in the sharing of the resources of the universities for the benefit of the rural population. In addition, the education partnership program shall attempt to increase participation in higher education by students from rural areas.

Section 502. Eligibility; funding.

The State System of Higher Education shall allocate funds to each participating member university based upon the geographic size and population of its rural serving area. No allocation shall be less than \$10,000. All funds appropriated by this act shall be distributed to the participating member universities.

SUBCHAPTER B
RURAL ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Section 531. Purpose of program.

The State System of Higher Education, in cooperation with Clarion University, shall establish a Rural Adult Literacy Program. The purposes and objectives of the program are:

- (1) To gather information that more directly identifies the intensity of illiteracy among Pennsylvania's rural adults.
- (2) To identify resource people, representing both the private as well as the public sector, who can assist in combating adult illiteracy through the use of the local public library.
- (3) To organize a conference dealing with the topic of illiteracy that would involve the resource people identified in paragraph (2).
- (4) To develop viable strategies that can be implemented in the rural public library to overcome adult illiteracy.
- (5) To develop a demonstration project in a Pennsylvania rural public library which will put into practice strategies of overcoming adult illiteracy.
- (6) To evaluate this demonstration project for the possibility of use in other places in Pennsylvania.

CHAPTER 7
REGIONAL CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Section 701. Regional Center for Continuing Education.

The Department of Commerce shall allocate the sum of \$400,000 to the University of Pittsburgh to establish a Regional Center for Continuing Education of Health Science Practitioners in western Pennsylvania. The pro-

posed Regional Center will provide the 23 counties of western Pennsylvania with an outreach program of continuing education, consultation and evaluation services as close as possible to "where they live" in order to increase their expertise in providing health care to the residents of the region and in planning and evaluating regional health services.

CHAPTER 9 APPROPRIATIONS

Section 901. Appropriation for Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

The sum of \$700,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania for the fiscal year July 1, 1986, to June 30, 1987, to carry out the provisions of Chapter 3 of this act. Two hundred thousand dollars of the \$700,000 appropriation shall be used to create a data base for rural Pennsylvania.

Section 902. Appropriation to State System of Higher Education.

(a) The sum of \$225,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the State System of Higher Education for the fiscal year July 1, 1986, to June 30, 1987, for the establishment and operation of the rural education partnership programs.

(b) The sum of \$50,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the State System of Higher Education for the fiscal year July 1, 1986, to June 30, 1987, for allocation to the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship of the College of Library Science, Clarion University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education for the purposes set forth in section 531.

Section 903. Appropriation to Department of Commerce.

The sum of \$400,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Commerce for the fiscal year July 1, 1986, to June 30, 1987, for allocation to the University of Pittsburgh to establish a Regional Center for Continuing Education of Health Science Practitioners in western Pennsylvania in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 7.

Section 904. Appropriations nonlapsing.

The appropriations made in sections 901, 902 and 903 shall be continuing appropriations and shall not lapse until June 30, 1988.

CHAPTER 11 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1101. Repeal.

The appropriation in the amount of \$2,750,000 to the Department of Commerce for Rural Economic Development in section 208 of the act of July 1, 1986 (P.L.1776, No.5A), known as the General Appropriation Act of 1986, is repealed insofar as that appropriation exceeds the sum of \$1,375,000. The sum of money repealed by this section is reappropriated in sections 901, 902 and 903 of this act.

Section 1102. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 30th day of June, A. D. 1987.

ROBERT P. CASEY