

BIENNIAL REPORT
of the
JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
1955-1957



JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
ROOM 450, CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Joint State Government Commission was created by Act of 1937, July 1, P. L. 2460, as amended 1939, June 26, P. L. 1084; 1943, March 8, P. L. 13; 1956, May 15, P. L. (1955) 1605, as a continuing agency for the development of facts and recommendations on all phases of government for the use of the General Assembly.

JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION OFFICERS AND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1955-1957

OFFICERS

BAKER ROYER, *Chairman*
FRANK W. RUTH, *Vice Chairman*
ALBERT W. JOHNSON, *Secretary*
ALBERT S. READINGER, *Treasurer*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SENATE MEMBERS:

M. HARVEY TAYLOR
President Pro Tempore

ROWLAND B. MAHANY
Majority Leader

JOHN H. DENT
Minority Leader

ALBERT R. PECHAN
Majority Whip

FRANK W. RUTH
Minority Whip

JAMES S. BERGER
Chairman, Majority Caucus

JOHN J. HALUSKA
Chairman, Minority Caucus

HOUSE MEMBERS:

HIRAM G. ANDREWS
Speaker

ALBERT S. READINGER
Majority Leader

CHARLES C. SMITH
Minority Leader

JAMES E. LOVETT
Majority Whip

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Minority Whip

J. DEAN POLEN
Chairman, Majority Caucus

NORMAN WOOD
Chairman, Minority Caucus

Member Ex Officio:

BAKER ROYER, *Commission Chairman*

JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1957-1959

SENATE MEMBERS:

M. HARVEY TAYLOR
President Pro Tempore

ROWLAND B. MAHANY
Majority Leader

JOHN H. DENT
Minority Leader

ALBERT R. PECHAN
Majority Whip

FRANK W. RUTH
Minority Whip

JAMES S. BERGER
Chairman, Majority Caucus

ISRAEL STIEFEL
Chairman, Minority Caucus

HOUSE MEMBERS:

W. STUART HELM
Speaker

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Majority Leader

ALBERT S. READINGER
Minority Leader

ALLEN M. GIBSON
Majority Whip

HIRAM G. ANDREWS
Minority Whip

NORMAN WOOD
Chairman, Majority Caucus

MARY A. VARALLO
Chairman, Minority Caucus

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INTRODUCTION

Act No. 535 of the 1955 Session, signed by the Governor May 15, 1956, provided that the membership of the General Assembly should constitute the Joint State Government Commission and charged the executive committee with responsibility for conducting the business of the Commission. It was the consensus of the executive committee that the interests of the General Assembly would be best served by confining the application of available time and resources to those areas of critical importance in which studies could be effectively carried out in the time remaining before the convening of the 1957 Session of the General Assembly.

Accordingly, small task forces, whose members were designated by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the full membership of the Commission, were appointed and the following studies were undertaken:

1. Branch banking
2. Comparative study of business tax differentials
3. Court procedure and administration and domestic relations laws
4. Legislative and administrative printing
5. Pennsylvania state and local pension systems and their relationship to existing Social Security laws
6. Operations of the professional licensure boards
7. Continuing study on public schools
8. Sale of life insurance by mutual savings banks
9. Standards and specifications for nonhighway structures and equipment
10. Surface and underground water supply.

It is the conduct of these studies which is covered by this biennial report.

A separate committee under the Joint State Government Commission was created by Act of 1956, May 31, P. L. (1955) 1931, to make a study and investigation relating to subsidence of surface soil in anthracite and bituminous coal mining regions. The operations of the Subsidence Committee are briefly described in this report, and a separate, more detailed report will be presented as directed by the act.

The Advisory Committee on Decedents' Estates Laws was reactivated by the executive committee for the purpose of screening amendments to the laws relating to decedents' estates proposed during the 1957 Session, and matters related thereto.

Reports of findings and recommendations of the task forces, together with such supplemental recommendations as the executive committee may make, will be presented to the standing committees designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker. In three instances, it was the decision of the executive committee that the nature of the studies and the information developed call for publication of separate reports. These reports, relating to the comparative study of business tax differentials, sale of life insurance by mutual savings banks, and branch banking, will be submitted to the General Assembly of 1957.

BAKER ROYER, *Chairman*

*Joint State Government Commission
Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
January, 1957*

BRANCH BANKING

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

HENRY J. PROPERT ——— *Co-chairmen* ———
G. GRAYBILL DIEHM
BERNARD B. MCGINNIS

House Members

LOUIS J. AMARANDO
JULES FILO
ALLEN M. GIBSON

The task force on the study of branch banking reviewed information developed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia from a comprehensive survey of branch banking in the Third Federal Reserve District and directed that similar data be compiled for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Consideration was given to the taking of a public opinion poll to determine community attitudes regarding establishment of branch banks and bank mergers, but it was the consensus that sentiment for and against branch bank and merger movements should be ascertained by public hearing.

Accordingly, on November 29, 1956, a public hearing in the matter was held by the task force in the Senate Caucus Room, Capitol Building, Harrisburg. Invitations to present views and per-

inent information at the hearing were extended to the Secretary of Banking and to representatives of banking associations and banking institutions.

In addition to the report which will be presented to the standing committees of the Senate and House designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, a summary of the testimony at the hearing, together with statistical data relating to the branch banking and merger movements in Pennsylvania, will be presented in a separate report.

The Committee on Banking of the Senate and the Committee on Banking and Building and Loan Associations of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

COMPARATIVE STUDY ON BUSINESS TAX DIFFERENTIALS

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

HENRY J. PROPERT
JOSEPH M. BARR
G. GRAYBILL DIEHM
ROWLAND B. MAHANY
ISRAEL STIEFEL

Co-chairmen

House Members

ALBERT S. READINGER
HIRAM G. ANDREWS
WAYNE M. BREISCH
EDWIN C. EWING
ROBERT WHEELER, JR.

The task force on the comparative study of business tax differentials reviewed comparative data for Pennsylvania and other states relating to railway tax accruals, other utility taxes, value added by manufacturing, numbers and average wages of manufacturing employes, and investment, employes, and payroll of new industry.

At the direction of the task force, a study was instituted of the Pennsylvania tax returns of a sample of corporations, and the cooperation of the subject corporations was enlisted to ascertain comparative taxes paid on their operations in Pennsylvania and other states.

The widespread circulation of statements by industrial officials and newspaper writers charging that Pennsylvania's tax climate is unfavorable to industry led the task force to schedule public hearings to which representatives of industry and the press and other interested parties were invited. Three such hearings, on July 31, August 6,

and September 12, 1956, were held in the Senate Caucus Room, Capitol Building, Harrisburg. In addition, more than twenty officials of as many Pennsylvania corporations presented facts and views at conferences with the task force in Pittsburgh on October 1, 1956, and in Philadelphia on October 8, 1956.

A report will be presented to the standing committees of the Senate and House designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker. In addition, the results of the study of corporate tax returns and other areas of the task force investigation will be detailed in a separate published report.

The Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

**COURT PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION
AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS LAWS**

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

JAMES S. BERGER
CHARLES R. MALLERY
MARTIN SILVERT

Co-chairmen

House Members

PHILIP LOPRESTI
HERMAN TOLL
EDWIN W. TOMPKINS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

J. WESLEY McWILLIAMS, *Chairman*

JUDGES:

HONORABLE HORACE STERN, *Chief Justice of the
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania*
HONORABLE JOHN T. DUFF, JR., *Judge of the
Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County*
HONORABLE WALTER P. WELLS, *President Judge
of the Court of Common Pleas of Potter
County*

TEACHERS OF LAW:

WILLIAM B. BALL
Villanova University Law School
WARREN M. BALLARD
Temple University School of Law
J. PAUL FARRELL
Duquesne University Law School
HENRY H. FOSTER, JR.
University of Pittsburgh School of Law

A. LEO LEVIN

University of Pennsylvania Law School

MORRIS L. SHAFER, *Dean*
Dickinson School of Law

ATTORNEYS:

WALTER E. ALESSANDRONI, *Esquire*, Philadelphia
J. CAMPBELL BRANDON, *Esquire*, Butler
R. PAUL CAMPBELL, *Esquire*, Bellefonte
EDWARD J. FOX, JR., *Esquire*, Easton
ABRAHAM L. FREEDMAN, *Esquire*, Philadelphia
SAMUEL GOLDSTOCK, *Esquire*, Pittsburgh
SIDNEY L. KRAWITZ, *Esquire*, Milford
ARTHUR LITTLETON, *Esquire*, Philadelphia
J. WESLEY McWILLIAMS, *Esquire*, Philadelphia
VICTOR J. ROBERTS, *Esquire*, Norristown
JAMES W. SCANLON, *Esquire*, Scranton
HARRY L. SIEGEL, *Esquire*, Lewistown

The advisory committee was appointed by the Commission at the request of the task force, giving representation to the courts in urban and rural areas, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, law schools in the Commonwealth, and attorneys in each of the eight classes of counties. The study

includes the administration, structure, procedure, and personnel of the courts and problems related thereto; calendar congestion and delay in bringing cases to trial; granting of rule-making power to the Supreme Court in criminal cases; reduction in costs of litigation, including appeals; and the

law pertaining to jury service and the selection of jurors.

In conjunction with its study of the courts, the task force will review the laws affecting domestic relations and study the feasibility of establishing a court of domestic relations in each of the Commonwealth's judicial districts.

The task force and the advisory committee met and formulated approaches to the over-all prob-

lem. Also, consideration was given to remedial measures which might be presented for review by the 1957 Session of the General Assembly.

The Committee on Judiciary General of the Senate and the Committee on Judiciary of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

DECEDENTS' ESTATES LAWS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JUDGES:

- HONORABLE HUGH C. BOYLE, *President Judge of the Orphans' Court of Allegheny County*
- HONORABLE ETHAN A. GEARHART, *President Judge of the Orphans' Court of Lehigh County*
- HONORABLE DAVID G. HUNTER, *Judge of the Orphans' Court of Philadelphia County*
- HONORABLE MARK E. LEFEVER, *Judge of the Orphans' Court of Philadelphia County*
- HONORABLE J. PAUL MACELREE, *President Judge of the Orphans' Court of Chester County*
- HONORABLE FREDERICK A. MARX, *President Judge of the Orphans' Court of Berks County*
- HONORABLE KARL E. RICHARDS, *President Judge of the Orphans' Court of Dauphin County*
- HONORABLE EDWARD LEROY VAN RODEN, *President Judge of the Orphans' Court of Delaware County*
- HONORABLE J. COLVIN WRIGHT, *Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania*

ATTORNEYS:

- PAUL BEDFORD, *Esquire, Wilkes-Barre*
- W. WALTER BRAHAM, *Esquire, New Castle*
- PHILIP A. BREGY, *Esquire, Philadelphia*
- ROBERT BRIGHAM, *Esquire, Philadelphia*
- REUBEN E. COHEN, *Esquire, Philadelphia*
- WILLIAM H. ECKERT, *Esquire, Pittsburgh*
- ROLAND FLEER, *Esquire, Norristown*
- W. PITT GIFFORD, *Esquire, Erie*
- A. J. WHITE HUTTON, *Esquire, Chambersburg*
- WILLIAM W. LITKE, *Esquire, Bellefonte*
- ALAN S. LOOSE, *Esquire, Jim Thorpe*
- RALPH D. MCKEE, *Esquire, Pittsburgh*
- WILLIAM M. ROBINSON, *Esquire, Pittsburgh*
- JAMES G. SCHMIDT, *Esquire, Philadelphia*
- C. L. SHAVER, *Esquire, Somerset*
- M. PAUL SMITH, *Esquire, Norristown*
- BOYD LEE SPAHR, *Esquire, Philadelphia*
- PAUL C. WAGNER, *Esquire, Philadelphia*
- ADOLPH L. ZEMAN, *Esquire, Washington*

The reactivation of the Advisory Committee on Decedents' Estates Laws was directed by the executive committee of Joint State Government Commission. The purpose of the reactivation of the committee is the screening of proposed amendments to the laws relating to decedents' estates introduced during the 1957 Session and matters related thereto. A request from the Attorney General for the further codification and revision of the Transfer Inheritance Tax Law has been referred to the advisory committee for study.

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRINTING

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

JAMES S. BERGER —
BENJAMIN R. DONOLOW
ROBERT D. FLEMING

Co-chairmen

—

House Members

JOHN F. STANK
W. MACK GUTHRIE
GEORGE J. SARRAF

Consultant

EDWARD M. YOUNG

The task force on the study of legislative and administrative printing reviewed reports of the 1955 committee appointed to study legislative printing and considered recommendations presented by Mr. Edward M. Young, consultant to the task force and chairman of the 1955 committee. Mr. Young's presentation included data and recommendations relating to the printing and reprinting, spacing, and volume of bills, histories, resolutions, and calendars; legislative printing contracts; distribution of printed materials; members' stationery; the Legislative Journal and *The Pennsylvania Manual*; printing costs; legislative printing in other states; and information concerning a system for the elimination of typesetting in the reproduction of legislative materials,

a demonstration of which was witnessed by the task force.

At the direction of the task force, the proposals were reviewed by the legislative consultant, the House parliamentarian, and the chief compiling clerk of the Senate; recommendations issuing from the review of the special committee were then presented to the task force.

In addition, the task force reviewed constitutional and statutory provisions and regulations related to public printing in the Commonwealth.

The Committee on Rules of the Senate and the Committee on Rules of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE AND LOCAL PENSION SYSTEMS AND THEIR
RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY LAWS

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

G. ROBERT WATKINS
WILLIAM J. LANE
THEODORE H. SCHMIDT
GEORGE N. WADE

— Co-chairmen —

House Members

MARTIN C. MIHM
THOMAS H. W. JONES
EDWIN E. LIPPINCOTT, II
JEANETTE F. REIBMAN

Consultant

ADAM T. BOWER

The task force on the study of Pennsylvania state and local pension systems and their relationship to existing Social Security laws studied the implications of the integration of state and municipal retirement systems with Social Security permitted under federal enactments and the Act of 1952, January 5, P. L. (1951) 1833, as amended 1956, June 1, P. L. (1955) 1973, and reviewed the provisions of Acts Nos. 658, 659, 660, and 661 of 1955, which amended the statutes pertaining to the State Employes' Retirement System, regular and optional third class city retirement systems, and the Public School Employes' Retirement System by providing for the modification of these systems under integration. Opinions were solicited from the consulting actuaries for the state and school employes' retirement systems regarding possible interpretations of the 1955 legislation.

The task force also considered the effects of

1956 amendments to the federal Social Security Act, which permit partial integration of state and local retirement systems with Social Security—that is, extension of integrated coverage to only that group of employes who elect such coverage.

At the direction of the executive committee of the Joint State Government Commission, a technical committee has been appointed to advise the standing committees of the General Assembly with respect to any ambiguities of language in Acts Nos. 658-662 of 1955 and to screen, from a technical point of view, any amendments which may be offered during the 1957 Session to the laws relating to the integration of state and municipal retirement systems with Social Security.

The Committee on Insurance of the Senate and the Committee on State Government of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

OPERATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE BOARDS

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

ALBERT R. PECHAN
JAMES S. BERGER
ANTHONY J. DiSILVESTRO
HUGH J. McMENAMIN

Co-chairmen

House Members

DAVID M. BOIES
LEON J. KOLANKIEWICZ
JOHN H. MOODY
ANDREW S. MOSCRIP

The task force on the study of the operations of the professional licensure boards surveyed the composition, terms of office of members, and statutory provisions (including restrictions on appointments) relating to the professional licensing boards of the Commonwealth, and the fees, eligibility requirements, and penalties applicable to examinees and licensees under the jurisdiction of the boards.

Copies of examinations and information relating to examination procedures (including the manner in which and by whom examinations are prepared and graded) were obtained directly from the licensing boards. Files of the boards were examined and data relating to numbers of

persons taking and passing or failing initial and re-examinations over the three-year period 1953-55 were collated and reviewed by the task force. Where obtainable, information relating to Pennsylvania residents and nonresidents and to graduates of Pennsylvania schools and other schools was included, and where applicable, the record of persons qualifying by experience or apprenticeship was shown.

The Committee on Education of the Senate and the Committee on Professional Licensure of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

CONTINUING STUDY ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

PAUL L. WAGNER
JO HAYS
EDWARD J. KESSLER
HARRY E. SEYLER

— *Co-chairmen* —

House Members

J. DEAN POLEN
W. STUART HELM
STEPHEN McCANN
LEROY A. WEIDNER

The task force on the continuing study on public schools surveyed the field of state and local support of the public schools. The system under which the Commonwealth reimburses local school districts on the various education accounts was studied, and the effects of various adjustments of the legislatively controlled elements entering into the calculation of reimbursement (i.e., the equalization level and the local effort rate) were considered. The task force also gave special attention to: the closed-school subsidy, from the standpoint of Commonwealth liability on this account and the manner in which the subsidy affects local budgeting and building programs; the use of supplemental payments for jointures and merged or union districts as an incentive to the establishment of larger, more economical attendance areas; pupil transportation reimbursement; the relationship of the equalization level to unit costs incurred by local districts on account of classroom instruction; the feasibility of extending to other accounts the "actual or standard" cost principle established by Act No. 417 of 1955 with respect to building reimbursement; and the advisability of reimbursing on noninstruction accounts on the basis of a stabilized equalization level.

The Act of 1956, May 31, P. L. (1955) 1937, directed the State Council of Education to prepare a state-wide plan for units of school administration, to be submitted to the Governor and the Joint State Government Commission. A considerable part of the work of the Commission's task force on the continuing study of the public schools related to the organizational pattern, allocation of costs, and other details of a plan for the operation of such intermediate units or "regional service areas." Particular attention was given to the provision, at the regional level, of services which cannot be economically provided by individual school districts, and to coordinating and standardizing certain functions. In conjunction with its consideration of this plan, the task force reviewed the operation of county teachers' institutes and in-service training programs, the education of handicapped children, and the school health program contained in Senate Bill No. 324, Session of 1955.

The Committee on Education of the Senate and the Committee on Education of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

SALE OF LIFE INSURANCE BY MUTUAL SAVINGS BANKS

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

ROBERT D. FLEMING
EDWARD B. WATSON
CHARLES R. WEINER

— *Co-chairmen* —

House Members

MARY A. VARALLO
LOUIS J. AMARANDO
GEORGE W. COOPER

The task force on the study of sale of life insurance by mutual savings banks directed its efforts to determining whether or not there exists a need for legislation permitting savings banks in Pennsylvania to sell life insurance over the counter and to ascertaining the benefits which might be expected to accrue from legalizing such sales. The provisions of, and public reaction to, legislation introduced during previous sessions to accomplish this purpose were surveyed. The task force reviewed the history and growth of savings bank life insurance sales in Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut (states in which such sales are now permitted), and compared costs of ordinary life insurance sold, and policyholder services provided, by insurance companies and through savings banks. In addition, the task force studied data produced from a 1951 field study conducted in Philadelphia to determine interest in, and possible intention to purchase, savings bank life insurance if made available in that city.

A public hearing in the matter, to which were

invited representatives of groups both supporting and opposing legislation to permit the sale of life insurance by mutual savings banks, was held October 1, 1956, in the Senate Caucus Room, Capitol Building, Harrisburg. Among those testifying at the hearing were representatives of savings bank life insurance organizations in Massachusetts and New York and the chairman of the savings bank life insurance committee of the National Association of Mutual Savings Banks.

In addition to the report which will be presented to the standing committees of the Senate and House designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, the complete findings of the task force, together with information produced from the public hearing, will be published in a separate report.

The Committee on Insurance of the Senate and the Committee on Insurance of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR NONHIGHWAY STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

WILLIAM Z. SCOTT
ALBERT R. PECHAN
JOSEPH J. YOSKO

Co-chairmen

House Members

ANTHONY J. PETROSKY
ROBERT K. HAMILTON
MARVIN V. KELLER

The Act of 1956, June 1, P. L. (1955) 2042, directed the Department of Property and Supplies to establish, in consultation with the Joint State Government Commission, standards for construction and equipment for all buildings owned or to be erected or subsidized by or for the Commonwealth.

The Commission task force appointed to conduct the study necessary to the establishment of standards directed its attention to developing possible means of coordinating the architectural and engineering functions now performed by various agencies of the state government in connection with nonhighway structures erected by or for, or subsidized by, the Commonwealth. Conferences were held with the Secretary of Property and Supplies, as well as representatives of the departments of Health, Labor and Industry, and Public Instruction, the General State Authority, State Public School Building Authority, State Art Commission, State Employees' Retirement Board, and the Pennsylvania State School Directors' Association.

The Superintendent of Standards of the Philadelphia Procurement Department and a representative of the Philadelphia Department of Public Property presented the task force with data relating to the operations of their agencies in connection with the construction of municipal facilities in the City of Philadelphia, and representatives of the boards of public education of both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh outlined the procedures followed in connection with planning and approval of school plant in those cities. The views and suggestions of the conferees were recorded and reviewed by the task force.

In addition, the task force reviewed the organization and functioning of the New York State Architect's Office, which has from time to time been cited as a model.

The Committee on State Government of the Senate and the Committee on State Government of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND WATER SUPPLY

TASK FORCE

Senate Members

JOHN T. VAN SANT
PETER J. CAMIEL
GEORGE B. STEVENSON

Co-chairmen

House Members

HARRIS G. BRETH
WILLIAM H. ASHTON
DONALD E. WHITENIGHT

The task force on the study of surface and underground water supply reviewed the recommendations issuing from studies of water resource problems in other states over the period 1952-55, articles on water legislation and related subjects by technical personnel of both federal and state governments, and proceedings of the Northeastern Interstate Exploratory Conference on Water Rights, Irrigation, and Small Watershed Development held in New York City July 16, 1956.

Several conferences were held with officials of Commonwealth agencies concerned with water resources. At one such conference, the task force was furnished by the chief geologist of the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey in the Department of Internal Affairs with information concerning Pennsylvania's water table, water pumping in mining operations, the increasing consumption of water, and other data relating to underground water supply. At another conference, the Secretary of Forests and Waters presented the task force with data relating to rainfall and water consumption, the need for statutory control in the utilization of surface waters, the discharge of waste into streams, flow regulation through dam construction, farm irrigation, and other subjects related to Pennsylvania's surface waters. Information relating to irrigation in Pennsylvania was submitted in writing by the head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering of

The Pennsylvania State University. Conferences were also attended by representatives of the state Department of Health and the U. S. Department of Agriculture and by the acting chief, the chief of the Division of Hydrography, and the district geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey.

Public hearings were held as follows:

On September 12, 1956, in Summit Lawn, Lehigh County, attended by representatives of various citizens' associations of the Saucon Valley

On September 17, 1956, in Harrisburg, attended by representatives of the Sanitary Water Board of the Department of Health, the Department of Commerce, Pennsylvania State Chamber of Commerce, farm associations, and other organizations

On October 2, 1956, in Pittsburgh, attended by coal operators and representatives of coal operators' associations and water, flood control, and sportsmen's groups

On November 13, 1956, in Harrisburg, attended by the Secretary of Mines and representatives from the Department of Health and by citizens of the Saucon Valley and representatives of the New Jersey Zinc Company.

The Committee on State Government of the Senate and the Committee on Conservation and Wild Life of the House have been designated by the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, respectively, to receive the findings and recommendations.

SUBSIDENCE COMMITTEE

[1956, May 31, P. L. (1955) 1931]

House Members

JOHN F. STANK, *Chairman*
JAMES J. JUMP
JAMES MUSTO
WILLIAM J. REIDENBACH
FRANK A. WALLACE

Senate Members

HAROLD E. FLACK
HUGH J. McMENAMIN
THEODORE H. SCHMIDT
WILLIAM Z. SCOTT
JOHN T. VAN SANT

Members of the Subsidence Committee were appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as provided by the 1955 act creating the committee under the Joint State Government Commission. As specified in the act, the chairman was elected by the committee at its initial meeting.

The committee reviewed the various legislative enactments relating to surface subsidence resulting from anthracite and bituminous mining operations and the recommendations issuing from a study made by the Anthracite Subsidence Commission established by a 1941 act (amended 1943).

Public hearings in the matter were held as follows:

On July 31, 1956, at Wilkes-Barre
On August 7, 1956, at Coaldale
On September 10, 1956, at Scranton

On September 28, 1956, at Arnold
On November 27, 1956, at Harrisburg.

The hearings were attended by representatives of the municipalities affected by surface subsidence, coal operators' associations, and citizens' groups, and the committee was presented with photographs of areas in which subsidence has taken place, as well as reports on subsidence investigations conducted by municipal technical personnel.

The committee also conferred with the Secretary of Mines regarding the subsidence problem and invited suggestions from the Department of Mines.

A report will be submitted to the General Assembly as directed by Act No. 646 of the 1955 Session.

JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION ACT

[1956, May 15, P. L. (1955) 1605]

No. 535

AN ACT

Amending the act of July one, one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 2460), entitled "An act creating a joint legislative commission, to be known as the Joint State Government Commission; providing for the appointment of its members; and defining its powers and duties," further providing for membership of the commission, its chairman and executive committee, and the powers and duties of the commission, and providing for the scheduling of its meetings; imposing powers and duties on standing committees of the General Assembly.

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

Section 1. The title, act of July one, one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven (Pamphlet Laws 2460), entitled "An act creating a joint legislative commission, to be known as the Joint State Government Commission; providing for the appointment of its members; and defining its powers and duties," is amended to read:

Title, act of July 1, 1937, P. L. 2460, amended.

AN ACT

Creating a joint legislative commission, to be known as the Joint State Government Commission; providing for [the appointment of its members and] *its membership, chairman and executive committee*; defining its powers and duties; *and defining the powers and duties of standing committees of the General Assembly.*

Title.

Section 2. Section one of the act, amended March eight, one thousand nine hundred forty-three (Pamphlet Laws thirteen), is amended to read:

Section 1, act of July 1, 1937, P. L. 2460, amended March 8, 1943, P. L. 13, further amended.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the [Speaker of] *entire membership* of the House of Representatives [shall appoint twelve members of the House and the President pro tempore shall appoint twelve members of] *and the entire membership of the*

Joint State Government Commission.

Members of executive committee.

Chairman.

Powers of commission.

Time of organization of commission and executive committee.

Meetings.

Section 2, act of July 1, 1937, P. L. 2460, amended June 26, 1939, P. L. 1084, further amended.

Powers and duties of the commission.

Senate [who together with the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives] shall constitute a continuing joint legislative commission, to be known as the Joint State Government Commission. [The members of the commission shall be appointed during each odd-numbered year and shall continue as members of the commission until the first day of February of the next odd-numbered year, and until their respective successors shall be appointed. Said] *The President pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of each house, the majority and minority whips of each house, and the chairman of the majority and minority caucuses of each house, shall constitute the executive committee of the commission.* The commission shall organize by the selection of a chairman *who shall be selected by the executive committee and who shall be ex officio a member of the executive committee without a vote.* The commission shall have power to employ a director and such professional, technical, clerical and other assistance as may be deemed necessary. [Said] *The commission shall have power to call upon any department or agency of the State Government for such information as it deems pertinent to the studies in which it is engaged. [Said] The commission shall also have the power to [designate members of the General Assembly to such subcommittees as it shall create, for the purpose of making investigations and studies, and to] designate persons, other than members of the General Assembly, to act in advisory capacities. The commission shall organize within thirty days after the final enactment of this act, and thereafter the executive committee shall hold the organization meeting within thirty days after the convening of the regular session of the General Assembly beginning with the regular session of 1957. Meetings of the commission shall be scheduled by the executive committee. The executive committee shall conduct the business of the commission and shall meet at the call of the chairman or upon written request of six or more members thereof.*

Section 3. Section two of the act, amended June twenty-six, one thousand nine hundred thirty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 1084), is amended to read:

Section 2. [Said] *The commission shall have power and its duty shall be:*

(a) [To investigate departments, boards, commissions and officers of the State and local governments, and to study their legislative, financial and other problems.

(b) To make studies for the use of the legislative branch of the government, seeking to improve the administrative organization of the State and local governments, to eliminate waste and overlapping functions and to institute economies.

(c) To suggest ways and means of financing the Commonwealth upon a more scientific and equitable basis.

(d) To gather budget information for the use of the General Assembly.

(e)] To make such [other] investigations and studies and to gather such [other] information as may be deemed useful to General Assembly *and to the standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.*

[(f)] (b) To sit during the interim between legislative sessions.

[(g)] (c) From time to time, to report to the General Assembly *or to the various standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives* such findings and recommendations accompanied with such drafts of legislation as it deems necessary for the information of and consideration by the General Assembly.

(d) *To furnish such technical staff services as shall be requested by the standing committees of the Senate and House of Representatives during regular or special sessions of the General Assembly.*

Section 4. Section three of the act is amended to read:

Section 3. [Any vacancies occurring in the membership of said commissions shall be filled by appointments, by the Speaker or President pro tempore, of members of the House or Senate, as the case may be to take the place of those persons whose membership in the House or Senate may have ceased.]

The commission shall undertake, through the standing committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, such studies and investigations as the General Assembly by resolution shall direct.

When a study or investigation is to be made, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate the appropriate standing committee of House and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall designate the appropriate standing committee of the Senate, to make such study or investigation. These two standing committees, when so designated, shall constitute a joint study committee of the commission for such purpose.

Section 3, act of July 1, 1937, P. L. 2460, amended.

Studies and investigations.

Joint study committee.

Meeting of joint study committees.

During the interim between sessions of the General Assembly, each joint study committee assigned to make a study shall meet at the call of the chairman of the commission or at the joint call of the chairman of the designated standing committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 4, act of July 1, 1937, P. L. 2460, amended March 8, 1943, P. L. 13, further amended.

Appropriation for expenses.

Section 5. Section four of the act, amended March eight, one thousand nine hundred forty-three (Pamphlet Laws 13), is amended to read:

Section 4. Biennially an item of appropriation shall be inserted in the General Appropriation Bill to pay the expenses of the members of the commission as constituted by this act, and for the salary of the director, clerical and other hire and incidental expenses. *No member of the commission shall receive any remuneration, salary or expenses as a member of the commission other than remuneration, salary and expenses as a member of the General Assembly and travelling expenses incurred upon the business of the commission or its study committees.*

Section 6. Said act is amended by adding, after section four, a new section to read:

Act of July 1, 1937, P. L. 2460, amended by adding a new section 5.

Section 5. For the purposes of this act, the standing committees of the Senate and House of Representatives shall continue during the interim between sessions.

APPROVED—The 15th day of May, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 535.

HENRY E. HARNER,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION STAFF

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PAUL H. WUELLER, *Associate Director in Charge of
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ANTOINETTE S. GIDDINGS, *Administrative Assistant*

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