



Legislation of Interest to PFFA – Fall 2020

Amending Act 43

HB 441 **Sonney**

Short Title: An Act amending the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, further providing for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

Summary: Defines “wind power generation systems” and permits the granting of rights-of-way for wind power generation systems on a preserved farm. Farm must be at least 50 acres, ROW limited to 2.0 acres for farms up to 149 acres, increasing by 2.0 acres for every 50 acres over 100 acres.

Status: **Before Senate Appropriations (June 24, 2020)**

PFFA Position: **Oppose**

HB 574 **Greiner**

Short Title: An Act amending the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements, for Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund and for Land Trust Reimbursement Program.

Summary: This bill amends the Agricultural Area Security Law (Act 43 of 1981) to direct a portion of the state-allocated farmland preservation funding to be set-aside annually for use by land trusts to preserve farms. Farms must meet all state minimum criteria. The use of these funds will not require the county to be a party to the agricultural conservation easement, but land trusts will have to provide matching dollars to be reimbursed for the purchase costs of an easement. If a land trust ceases to exist, any easements purchased with state-allocated dollars will be transferred to the county or the state.

Status: **Before House Ag. Committee (February 28, 2019)**

PFFA Position: **Oppose**

SB 583 **Aument**

Short Title: An Act amending the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

Summary: This bill amends the Agricultural Area Security Law (Act 43 of 1981) to establish a uniform definition of agritourism and permit agritourism by right on preserved farms. County must “deem” use to be agritourism as defined. Requires that any agritourism activity must not prevent the land from being immediately converted back to agricultural use.

Status: **Before House Ag. Committee (May 8, 2019)**

PFFA Position: **Oppose**

SB 881 **Martin**

Short Title: An Act amending the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements, for Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund and for Land Trust Reimbursement Program.

Summary: This bill amends the Agricultural Area Security Law (Act 43 of 1981) to direct a portion of the state-allocated farmland preservation funding to be set-aside annually for use by land trusts to preserve farms. Farms must meet all state minimum criteria. The use of these funds will not require the county to be a party to the agricultural conservation easement, but land trusts will have to provide matching dollars to be reimbursed for the purchase costs of an easement. If a land trust ceases to exist, any easements purchased with state-allocated dollars will be transferred to the county or the state.

Status: **Before Senate House Committee (Sept. 23 2020)**

PFFPA Position: **Oppose**

Other

HB 1037 **Lawrence**

Short Title: An Act amending the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions and for application; and, in exemptions, applicability and penalties, further providing for penalties.

Summary: This bill amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act to clarify the legal status of wedding barns that meet prescribed fire and safety standards. Provides for definitions of "Historic agricultural building" and removes requirements for an automatic sprinkler system if certain conditions are met relating to smoking, open flames, candles, ovens and stoves.

Status: **Second Consideration, House (Sept. 11, 2020)**

PFFPA Position: **Oppose**