



Legislation of Interest to PFFPA – Spring 2019

HB 370 Klunk

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 permit the owner of the land subject to the agricultural conservation easement to relinquish and extinguish the right of construction for an additional residence for the principal landowner, immediate family or employees. Additionally, the bill specifies that a county program shall permit one subdivision for the purpose of a residence for the landowner, immediate family or an employee unless the right to the residence has been relinquished and extinguished.

Status: Before Senate Ag. Committee (March 29, 2019)

PFFPA Position: Support

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 Ag. Committee (March 28, 2019)

PFFPA 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)

PFFPA 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: **Ready for Third Consideration by Senate (May 1, 2019)**

PFPA Position: **Oppose**