



Legislation of Interest to PFPA – Fall 2017

HB 187 (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 definitions and 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: Laid on the Table, Senate (July 11, 2017)

PFPA Position: Oppose

HB 885 (Murt)

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: Provides for the granting of rights-of way for trails for nonmotorized use on a preserved farm. Trail must be limited to 20' wide, for nonmotorized passive recreational use, available for use without charge, may not convert land devoted primarily to agricultural production or commercial equine activity, agreement for trail use must be recorded.

Status: Before House Ag. Committee (February 12, 2015)

PFPA Position: ~~Oppose~~ (2012 Policy Priorities, Act 43, 6)
Support 5/3/17

HB 1518 (Causer)

Short Title: An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in organization of independent administrative boards and commissions, further providing for Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board.

Summary: This bill amends the Administrative Code (Act 175 of 1929) to require the Governor to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, two alternate farmer members to the Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board (ALCAB) and the term of an alternate shall be four years. Alternate farmer members serve in the event of a vacancy or absence of an appointed farmer member, and when delegated by the board chairman to serve.

Status: Before Senate Ag. Committee (July 6, 2017)

PFPA Position:

HB 1550 (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 (July 6, 2017)

PFFPA Position: Support

HB 1689 (Cutler)

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. 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 (July 27, 2017)

PFFPA Position: ~~Support~~ Opposed 10/12/17

SB 819 (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 Board review/approval for agritourism activities is not required. Requires that any agritourism activity must not prevent the land from being immediately converted back to agricultural use.

Sister bill, SB 820 provides for some protection from civil liability for owners and operators of agritourism activities.

Status: Before Senate Ag. Committee (September 8, 2017)

PFFPA Position: ~~Support~~ Opposed 10/12/17

Other

HB 503 (Charlton)

Short Title: An Act amending Title 27 (Environmental Resources) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in environmental stewardship and watershed protection, further providing for legislative findings and for agencies and establishing duties for the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Summary: Growing Greener III

Status: Before House Environmental Committee (Feb, 15 2017)

PFPA Position: Support (Policy)

Other

HB 904 (Murt)

Short Title: An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, providing for special farmland preservation plates and for the use of a portion of the fee for the plate.

Summary: Farmland Preservation license plates

Status: Before House Transportation Committee (March 20, 2017)

PFPA Position: Support

HB 904 (Kauffman)

Short Title: An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, providing for special farmland preservation plates and for the use of a portion of the fee for the plate.

Summary: Farmland Preservation license plates

Status: Before House Transportation Committee (Jan, 31 2017)

PFPA Position: Support

HB 1053 (Sturla)

Short Title: An Act amending the act of December 19, 1974 (P.L.973, No.319), known as the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974, further providing for definitions and for applications for preferential assessments.

Summary: Require that those seeking preferential assessment for agricultural land in the Clean and Green Program have submitted an Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Manure Management Plan, National Pollutant Discharge System Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and a Nutrient Management Plan.

Status: Before House Ag. Committee (April 3, 2017)

PFPA Position:

SB 705 (Killion)

Short Title: An Act amending Title 27 (Environmental Resources) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in environmental stewardship and watershed protection, further providing for legislative findings, for the Environmental Stewardship Fund, for agencies and for Commonwealth indebtedness and establishing duties for the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Summary: Growing Greener III

Status: Before Senate Environmental Committee (May 24, 2017)

PFPA Position:

SB 823 (Schwank)

Short Title: An Act amending the act of December 19, 1974 (P.L.973, No.319), known as the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974, further providing for roll-back taxes and special circumstances.

Summary: Allow for the operation of a rural enterprise, as currently defined, by a party other than the landowner or his beneficiaries who enters into a lease with the landowner.

Status: Before Senate Ag. Committee (July 29, 2017)

(Amended to remove allowance for leasing rural enterprise to non-Class A beneficiary)

PFPA Position: