

polling places, the county board of elections shall, whenever possible and practicable, select schoolhouses, municipal buildings or rooms, or other public buildings for that purpose. Any board of public education or school directors, or county or the municipal authorities shall, upon request of the county board, make arrangements for the use of school property, or of county or municipal property for polling places: Provided, however, That such use shall not interfere with the use of such buildings for the purposes for which they are primarily intended.

In the event no available public building as contemplated under this section is situated within the boundaries of any election district, the county board of elections may, not less than sixty days prior to any election, designate as the polling place for such election district any such public building situated in another election district within the same ward, or, if there are no wards, then within the same borough or township as the case may be, provided such other building is immediately adjacent to the boundary of the election district for which it is to be the polling place and is directly accessible therefrom by public street or thoroughfare. Two or more polling places may be located in the same public building under this section. A polling place may be selected and designated hereunder less than sixty days prior to any election, with the approval of a court of competent jurisdiction.

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APPROVED—The 21st day of June, A. D. 1957.

GEORGE M. LEADER

No. 212

AN ACT

Requiring certain records of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions and of certain authorities and other agencies performing essential governmental functions, to be open for examination and inspection by citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; authorizing such citizens under certain conditions to make extracts, copies, photographs or photostats of such records; and providing for appeals to the courts of common pleas.

Public records.

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

Definitions.

Section 1. In this act the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Agency." Any department, board or commission of the executive branch of the Commonwealth, any

political subdivision of the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, or any State or municipal authority or similar organization created by or pursuant to a statute which declares in substance that such organization performs or has for its purpose the performance of an essential governmental function.

(2) "Public Record." Any account, voucher or contract dealing with the receipt or disbursement of funds by an agency or its acquisition, use or disposal of services or of supplies, materials, equipment or other property and any minute, order or decision * by an agency fixing the personal or property rights, privileges, immunities, duties or obligations of any person or group of persons: Provided, That the term "public records" shall not mean any report, communication or other paper, the publication of which would disclose the institution, progress or result of an investigation undertaken by an agency in the performance of its official duties or any record, document, material, exhibit, pleading, report, memorandum or other paper, access to or the publication of which is prohibited, restricted or forbidden by statute law or order or decree of court, or which would operate to the prejudice or impairment of a person's reputation or personal security, or which would result in the loss by the Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions or commissions or State or municipal authorities of Federal funds, excepting therefrom however the record of any conviction for any criminal act.

Proviso.

Section 2. Every public record of an agency shall, at reasonable times, be open for examination and inspection by any citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Inspection at reasonable times.

Section 3. Any citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall have the right to take extracts or make copies of public records and to make photographs or photostats of the same while such records are in the possession, custody and control of the lawful custodian thereof or his authorized deputy. The lawful custodian of such records shall have the right to adopt and enforce reasonable rules governing the making of such extracts, copies, photographs or photostats.

Right to copy public records.

Power to make and enforce rules.

Section 4. Any citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania denied any right granted to him by section 2 or section 3 of this act, may appeal from such denial to the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin County if an agency of the Commonwealth is involved, or to the court of common pleas of the appropriate judicial district if a political subdivision or any agency thereof is involved.

Upon denial right to appeal.

* "action" in original.

If such court determines that such denial was not for just and proper cause under the terms of this act, it may enter such order for disclosure as it may deem proper.

APPROVED—The 21st day of June, A. D. 1957.

GEORGE M. LEADER

No. 213

AN ACT

Requiring that meetings of the governing bodies of political subdivisions and of certain authorities and other agencies performing essential governmental functions shall be open to the public.

Public meetings
by public bodies.

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

Definitions.

Section 1. In this act the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(A) "Board." The board of county commissioners of any county, the council of any city, borough or incorporated town, the board of commissioners of any township of the first class, the board of supervisors of any township of the second class, the school board of any school district or the board, commission or other governing body of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission or of any State or municipal authority or similar organization created by, or pursuant to, a statute which declares, in substance, that such organization performs or has for its purpose the performance of an essential governmental function and that its bonds shall not pledge the faith or credit or be obligations of the Commonwealth or of any political subdivision.

(B) "Public Meeting." That part of any meeting of a board during which it votes upon any ordinance, resolution, motion or other official action proposed by or to the board dealing with the receipt, borrowing or disbursement of funds or the acquisition, use or disposal of services or of any supplies, materials, equipment or other property or the fixing of personal or property rights, privileges, immunities, duties or obligations of any person or group of persons: Provided, That the term "Public Meeting" shall not mean any meeting, the publication of the facts concerning which would disclose the institution, progress or result of an investigation undertaken by a board in the performance of its official duties.

Public meetings
to be open to
public.

Section 2. Every public meeting of a board shall be open to the public.

Notice of time
and place of
public meetings.

Section 3. Every board shall hold all public meetings, at specified times and places, of which public notice shall