

Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 18th day of July, A. D. 1968.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER.

No. 196

AN ACT

SB 1554

Amending the act of July 9, 1959 (P. L. 510), entitled "An act relating to the public lands of the Commonwealth; defining such land; providing for the sale of vacant and unimproved public lands and the price to be paid therefor; providing for the conveyance of title to vacant and unappropriated public land to the Department of Forests and Waters for forest culture, forest reservation, or State park purposes; providing for the conveyance of title to all public lands for which applications have been made or warrants issued and to all persons having rights by settlement and improvement upon payment of the purchase price; providing for the release of liens for unpaid purchase price in certain cases; preventing the granting of title to lands and islands in the bed of navigable rivers and streams declared by law to be public highways except in certain cases; and prescribing the duties of the Department of Internal Affairs with respect to the administration of the public lands and the records thereof, including surveys of county and Commonwealth boundaries and documents having to do with early titles," transferring functions of the Department of Internal Affairs to the Department of Community Affairs.

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

Section 1. The title, clauses (e) and (g) of section 2, and clause (4) of section 11, act of July 9, 1959 (P. L. 510), known as the "Pennsylvania Public Lands Act," are amended to read:

AN ACT

Relating to the public lands of the Commonwealth; defining such land; providing for the sale of vacant and unimproved public lands and the price to be paid therefor; providing for the conveyance of title to vacant and unappropriated public land to the Department of Forests and Waters for forest culture, forest reservation, or State park purposes; providing for the conveyance of title to all public lands for which applications have been made or warrants issued and to all persons having rights by settlement and improvement upon payment of the purchase price; providing for the release of liens for unpaid purchase price in certain cases; preventing the granting of title to lands and islands in the bed of navigable rivers and streams declared by law to be public highways except in certain cases; and prescribing the duties of the Department of [Internal] Community Affairs with respect to the administration of the public lands and the records thereof, including surveys of county

and Commonwealth boundaries and documents having to do with early titles.

Section 2. Definitions.—The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this act, shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

* * *

(e) "Department" shall mean the Department of [Internal] Community Affairs.

* * *

(g) "Bureau" shall mean the Bureau of Land Records in the Department of [Internal] Community Affairs.

Section 11. Prohibitions and Exceptions.—No application shall be accepted and no warrants, easements or other office rights shall be granted for any land or island lying in the beds of navigable rivers or in beds of streams which are by law declared to be public highways, except

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(4) The evidence that any part of such river or stream has ceased to be useful for the ordinary purposes of navigation and is the subject of warrant, survey and patent, shall include a certified copy of any Act of Congress which may be passed in relation thereto, and a copy of any agreement entered into between the United States of America and such owners of the land accompanied by proper plans showing the land to be taken, the river or stream as widened, straightened or improved, and the portion of such river or stream which is to be abandoned, which copy of such agreement and which plans shall be certified, under the hand and seal of the United States Secretary of Defense or his successor, and filed in the Office of the Secretary of [Internal] Community Affairs of this Commonwealth.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 18th day of July, A. D. 1968.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER.

No. 197

AN ACT

SB 1557

Amending the act of June 30, 1959 (P. L. 492), entitled "An act fixing the fees to be charged by the Department of Internal Affairs," changing references to the Department of Internal Affairs to the Department of Community Affairs.