

No. 264

AN ACT

HB 833

Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P. L. 177), entitled "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the Executive Department thereof and the administrative departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof, including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative officers, and of the several administrative departments, boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards, and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and commissions shall be determined," changing the membership of the Water and Power Resources Board.

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

Section 1. Section 431, act of April 9, 1929 (P. L. 177), known as "The Administrative Code of 1929," amended April 25, 1949 (P. L. 729), is amended to read:

Section 431. Water and Power Resources Board.—The Water and Power Resources Board shall consist of [five] six members: [four of whom shall be] the Secretary of Forests and Waters, the Secretary of Health, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, and a member of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, to be designated by the Governor. [The fifth member shall be an engineer, and shall receive a salary of three thousand dollars per annum.]

The Secretary of Forests and Waters shall be chairman of the board.

[Three] Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

Any investigation, hearing or other proceeding which the board has power to undertake or hold, may be undertaken or held by or before any member of the board, or by or before any official of the board designated by the board for such purpose, provided all actions and orders shall be approved by a majority thereof.

The board shall have ¹ authority to make and adopt rules and regulations for its procedure, acts and orders, not inconsistent with this act.

¹ "the" in original.

Interim permits and orders may be issued and made by the chairman of the board, or by any official of the board designated for such purpose by the board, but such interim permits and orders shall be subject to subsequent approval or confirmation by the board.

APPROVED—The 31st day of July, A. D. 1968.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER.

No. 265

AN ACT

HB 900

Amending the act of November 30, 1955 (P. L. 756), entitled "An act relating to coal mining, well operations and the underground storage of gas, except in storage reservoirs excavated in rock formations specifically for storage purposes, and the safety of personnel and facilities employed therein; prescribing the rights and duties of well operators, before, during, and after the drilling of wells for the production, extraction or storage of any gas, petroleum or other liquid; regulating the underground storage of gas under workable coal seams; prescribing the rights and duties of owners and operators of coal mines in relation to wells and underground storage areas; granting certain corporations a limited right of eminent domain to appropriate interests in real property for surface and sub-surface operations in connection with the underground storage of gas; creating the Oil and Gas Division of the Department of Mines and defining its personnel, powers and duties; providing for hearings and the procedures to be followed therein and imposing duties upon the courts and providing methods for the enforcement of the provisions of this act and imposing penalties," defining completion of a well; further providing for well operator's responsibility before and during drilling; drilling permits, method of casing through coal seams, plugging wells and filing certificates thereof, plugging and pulling casing; requiring the Oil and Gas Division to cooperate with the Sanitary Water Board; further providing for filing of maps and data by coal mine operators; and changing penalty provisions.

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

Section 1. Section 102, act of November 30, 1955 (P. L. 756), known as the "Gas Operations Well-Drilling Petroleum and Coal Mining Act," is amended by adding at the end thereof, a new clause to read:

Section 102. Definitions.—As used in this act:

* * *

(24) "Completion of a well" shall mean the date after treatment, if any, that the well is properly equipped for production of oil or gas; or if the well is dry, the date the well is abandoned.

Section 2. Section 201 and subsection (d) of section 202 of the act are amended to read:

Section 201. Well Operator's Responsibility Before and During