

No. 290

AN ACT

SB 685

Amending the act of November 25, 1970 (No. 230), entitled "An act codifying and compiling a part of the law of the Commonwealth," changing provisions relating to the publication of laws, adding provisions relating to the adoption and publication of constitutional and statutory provisions and to statutory construction, and making repeals.

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

Section 1. Chapter 5 of Title 1, act of November 25, 1970 (No. 230), known as the "Consolidated Pennsylvania Statutes," is repealed.

Section 2. Title 1 of the act is amended by inserting after the heading of the title a title analysis to read:

Part

- I. The Consolidated Pennsylvania Statutes
- III. Adoption and Publication of Constitutional and Statutory Provisions
- V. Statutory Construction

Section 3. Title 1 of the act is amended by adding, after Chapter 4 (Reserved), four new parts to read:

PART II  
(Reserved)

PART III  
ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION OF  
CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Chapter

- 9. Constitutional Provisions
- 11. Statutory Provisions

CHAPTER 9  
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Sec.

- 901. Legislation to show changes.
- 902. Conduct of election.
- 903. Governor to proclaim result of election.
- 904. Governor to proclaim corrected numbering.
- 905. Section headings.
- 906. Short titles of Constitutions of 1874 and 1968.

**§ 901. Legislation to show changes.**

Bills or joint resolutions introduced in the General Assembly proposing amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania shall be printed in such a manner as to indicate the words to be added to or deleted from the Constitution.

**§ 902. Conduct of election.**

The manner in which proposed amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the Commonwealth and the manner and effect of the certification of the returns of the election thereon shall, unless the General Assembly shall prescribe otherwise with respect to any particular proposed amendment, be as provided in the Pennsylvania Election Code.

**§ 903. Governor to proclaim result of election.**

The officer of this Commonwealth to whom election returns are required by law to be certified shall, whenever a proposed amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania has been on the ballot at any election, certify the result of the election thereon to the Governor immediately upon receiving the official returns from all counties of the Commonwealth, and the Governor shall thereupon issue his proclamation indicating whether or not the proposed amendment has been adopted by a majority of the electors voting thereon. The proclamation shall be published in the next available volume of the Laws of Pennsylvania.

**§ 904. Governor to proclaim corrected numbering.**

Whenever an amendment of an article or of a section of the Constitution of Pennsylvania is adopted without specifying an article or section number, or whenever any amendment is adopted bearing a number which conflicts with the number of another article or section of the Constitution, the Governor may by proclamation specify a number for the article or section having no number, or change the number of any article or section which bears a number which conflicts with the number of another article or section of the Constitution, or renumber the articles of the Constitution or the sections of an article. The proclamation shall be published in the next available volume of the Laws of Pennsylvania.

**§ 905. Section headings.**

The Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, with the approval of the Department of Justice, shall prepare and promulgate an appropriate heading for any section of the Constitution of Pennsylvania which was heretofore or may hereafter be adopted without a section heading. Any section heading promulgated pursuant to this section shall be published in the next available volume of the Laws of Pennsylvania.

**§ 906. Short titles of Constitutions of 1874 and 1968.**

(a) Constitution of 1874.—The Constitution of Pennsylvania, as adopted by referendum of December 16, 1873, shall be known and may be cited as the “Constitution of 1874.”

(b) Constitution of 1968.—The Constitution of Pennsylvania, as

amended by referenda of May 17, 1966, November 8, 1966, May 16, 1967 and April 23, 1968 and as numbered by proclamation of the Governor of this Commonwealth of July 7, 1967 pursuant to the act of August 17, 1965 (No. 180), shall be known and may be cited as the "Constitution of 1968."

## CHAPTER 11 STATUTORY PROVISIONS

Sec.

- 1101. Style and position of enacting clause.
- 1102. Publication of notice of application for local or special legislation.
- 1103. Preparation of statutes for printing.
- 1104. Printing of amendatory statutes.
- 1105. Correction of errors in statutes.
- 1106. Prothonotaries to keep files of advance copies of statutes.

**§ 1101. Style and position of enacting clause.**

All statutes shall begin in the following style: "The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:". Such enacting clause shall be placed immediately after the preamble or the table of contents of the statute, or if there be neither preamble nor table of contents, then immediately after the title.

**§ 1102. Publication of notice of application for local or special legislation.**

(a) No local or special bill, either to repeal or enact a local or special statute, shall be passed by the General Assembly, unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall be published, once a week for four successive weeks, in not less than two newspapers of general circulation, and also in the legal journal, if any, published in the county or in each of the several counties where the matter or thing affected may be. Where the matter or thing affected is in a municipality, publication shall be made in two newspapers of general circulation published in such municipality, if any, and, if none, then in two newspapers published in the county, and, in either event, also in the legal journal, if any, published in the county. Where only one newspaper of general circulation is published in a county or in a municipality, publication in such one newspaper and in the legal journal, if any, shall be deemed sufficient.

(b) The first publication shall be at least 30 days prior to, and within three months immediately preceding, the introduction of the bill into the General Assembly.

(c) The notice shall set forth the full title and the purposes of the bill, and shall be signed by one of the parties applying therefor.

(d) Proof of publication in each newspaper and legal journal, verified by affidavit, shall be filed with the bill when it is introduced.

(e) Notice shall not be required to be given under this section of a proposal to repeal a local or special statute by a general bill which codifies, compiles or revises the law or any part thereof.

**§ 1103. Preparation of statutes for printing.**

The Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau shall, as soon as any bill becomes a law, prepare the same for printing, cause the same to be printed immediately, and collate with and correct the proof sheets by the original rolls. He shall also have the statutes printed and indexed in book form as the Laws of Pennsylvania as early as possible succeeding each regular session of the General Assembly, for distribution in accordance with law.

**§ 1104. Printing of amendatory statutes.**

(a) General rule.—The Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau shall, in printing amendatory statutes, cause to be printed the section or part of the statute only as reenacted. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, in the section or part of the law reenacted, the Director shall cause to be printed between brackets, the words, phrases, or provisions of the existing statute, if any, which have been stricken out or eliminated by the adoption of the amendment, and he shall cause to be printed in italics or with underscoring all new words, phrases or provisions, if any, which have been inserted into or added to the statute by the passage of such amendment.

(b) Consolidated Pennsylvania Statutes.—In printing as much of any statute as adds an entire title, part, article, chapter or other major subdivision to the Consolidated Pennsylvania Statutes, the Director shall cause such addition to be printed in Roman type without underscoring, and in printing as much of any statute as deletes or repeals an entire title, part, article, chapter or other major subdivision of the Consolidated Pennsylvania Statutes, the Director shall not cause to be printed the provisions which have been deleted or repealed.

**§ 1105. Correction of errors in statutes.**

(a) Procedure for correction.—Where any statute shall have been finally enacted and it shall be ascertained that such statute is technically defective in form, or contains misspelled words or typographical errors, or the plural or singular number, or the past, present or future tense appears where another should be used, or where a word clearly intended to be inserted has been omitted, or where a word clearly should have been omitted, or where a word is correctly spelled but it clearly appears that another word was intended, or where a title, part, article, chapter or other major subdivision heading or a section heading or the summary analysis thereof or a cross reference in any amendment to the Consolidated Pennsylvania Statutes has been omitted or is erroneous or otherwise defective, the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, in punctuating and editing such statute, shall have authority, with the approval of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Department of Justice, to correct the original copy of such statute, as filed in the Department of State, if such correction will not in any manner affect or change the meaning, intent or substance of such statute.

(b) Notation of correction.—Whenever any such correction on any statute is made, a notation thereof shall be made on the original copy by the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, together with his signature, followed by the approval and signatures of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Attorney General or his deputy. Except in the case of the addition or correction of the title, part, article, chapter, section or other analysis at the beginning of the next higher unit of the Consolidated Pennsylvania Statutes, a notation of such corrections shall also be printed in the Laws of Pennsylvania as footnotes to the statutes on which the corrections were made.

**§ 1106. Prothonotaries to keep files of advance copies of statutes.**

The prothonotaries of the several counties shall file and keep in their offices, in such manner that they shall be accessible to the public during the office hours of the prothonotaries, advance copies of the statutes enacted at each session of the General Assembly, as such advance copies are furnished to them in accordance with law, until the statutes of such session as printed in the Laws of Pennsylvania are generally available.

PART IV  
(Reserved)

PART V  
STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION

Chapter

- 15. General Provisions
- 17. Effective Date of Statutes
- 19. Rules of Construction

CHAPTER 15  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.

- 1501. Short title of part.
- 1502. Application of part.
- 1503. Applicability of colonial law.
- 1504. Statutory remedy preferred over common law.

**§ 1501. Short title of part.**

This part shall be known, and may be cited as, the “Statutory Construction Act of 1972.”

**§ 1502. Application of part.**

(a) Direct application.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the provisions of this part shall apply to the following unless the General Assembly or the agency adopting the document shall provide otherwise:

- (i) Every statute finally enacted on or after September 1, 1937.
- (ii) Every document codified in the Pennsylvania Code except legislative, judicial and home rule charter documents.

(2) The provisions of this chapter and of Chapter 17 of this title (relating to effective date of statutes) shall apply to every statute enacted by the General Assembly, whether under the authority of the Commonwealth or of the late Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania.

(b) Other applications.—The provisions of this part shall apply to any public document to the extent such document refers to and incorporates therein the provisions of this part. The provisions of this part other than this chapter and Chapter 17 of this title (relating to effective date of statutes) shall apply to statutes finally enacted before September 1, 1937 to the extent that this part substantially reenacts or restates rules of construction enacted or in force prior to such date.

**§ 1503. Applicability of colonial law.**

(a) English law.—The common law and such of the statutes of England as were in force in the Province of Pennsylvania on May 14, 1776 and which were properly adapted to the circumstances of the inhabitants of this Commonwealth shall be deemed to have been in force in this Commonwealth from and after February 10, 1777.

(b) Provincial statutes.—The statutes enacted on or before May 14, 1776 under the authority of the late Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania have the same validity and effect as statutes enacted under the authority of this Commonwealth.

(c) Exceptions.—The rules specified in subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not be applicable to any statute or law which:

- (1) has been heretofore or is hereafter amended or repealed or which has expired by its own limitation;
- (2) orders the taking or subscribing any oath, affirmation or declaration of allegiance or fidelity to the British crown;
- (3) acknowledges any authority in the heirs or devisees of William Penn, Esq., deceased, the former Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, or any other person whomsoever as Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania; or
- (4) is repugnant to the Constitution of this Commonwealth or of the United States.

**§ 1504. Statutory remedy preferred over common law.**

In all cases where a remedy is provided or a duty is enjoined or anything is directed to be done by any statute, the directions of the statute shall be strictly pursued, and no penalty shall be inflicted, or anything done agreeably to the common law, in such cases, further than shall be necessary for carrying such statute into effect.

CHAPTER 17  
EFFECTIVE DATE OF STATUTES

Sec.

1701. Statutes generally.

1702. Statutes making appropriations.

1703. Statutes affecting the budget of any political subdivision.

1704. Statutes enacted at a special session.

**§ 1701. Statutes generally.**

(a) General rule.—Except as otherwise provided in this chapter all statutes enacted finally at any regular session of the General Assembly not containing a specified effective date shall be effective on the date specified by that one of the following rules of construction in effect on the date of final enactment of the statute:

(1) Final enactment before May 18, 1929.—immediately upon final enactment.

(2) Final enactment on or after May 18, 1929 and before August 25, 1951.—on the first day of September next following their final enactment.

(3) Final enactment on or after August 25, 1951 and before January 10, 1960.—on the first day of September next following their final enactment, or if finally enacted after the first day of September of the year of the regular session, immediately upon final enactment.

(4) Final enactment on or after January 10, 1960 and before June 6, 1969.—on the first day of September next following their final enactment, or if finally enacted after the first day of July of the year of the regular session, 60 days after final enactment.

(5) Final enactment on or after June 6, 1969.—60 days after final enactment.

(b) Statutes enacted after effective date therein specified.—Except as otherwise provided in this chapter all statutes enacted finally at any regular session of the General Assembly after the effective date therein specified shall be effective on the date specified by that one of the following rules of construction in effect on the date of final enactment of the statute:

(1) Final enactment before January 10, 1960.— immediately upon final enactment.

(2) Final enactment on or after January 10, 1960.—60 days after final enactment.

**§ 1702. Statutes making appropriations.**

Appropriation statutes, or statutes having appropriation items enacted finally at any regular session of the General Assembly, shall be effective on the date specified by that one of the following rules of construction in effect on the date of final enactment of the statute:

(1) Final enactment before May 18, 1929.—immediately upon final

enactment unless a different date is specified in the statute itself.

(2) Final enactment on or after May 18, 1929 and before June 2, 1967.—on the first day of June next following their final enactment, unless a different date is specified in the statute itself, or unless any such statute is enacted finally after the first day of June in any year, in which case it shall be effective immediately upon final enactment.

(3) Final enactment on or after June 2, 1967 and before June 6, 1969.—on the first day of July next following their final enactment, unless a different date is specified in the statute itself, or unless any such statute is enacted finally after the first day of July in any year, in which case it shall be effective immediately upon final enactment.

(4) Final enactment on or after June 6, 1969.—on the first day of July next following their final enactment, unless a different date is specified in the statute itself, or unless any such statute is enacted finally after the first day of July in any year, or after the date specified in the statute, in which case it shall be effective immediately upon final enactment.

**§ 1703. Statutes affecting the budget of any political subdivision.**

Statutes affecting the budget of any political subdivision enacted finally at any regular session of the General Assembly shall be effective on the date specified by that one of the following rules of construction in effect on the date of final enactment of the statute:

(1) Final enactment before May 18, 1929.—immediately upon final enactment unless a different date is specified in the statute itself.

(2) Final enactment on or after May 18, 1929 and before June 4, 1941.—on the first day of September next following their final enactment unless a different date is specified in the statute itself.

(3) Final enactment on or after June 4, 1941 and before August 25, 1951 or on or after May 28, 1953 and before June 6, 1969.—at the beginning of the fiscal year of the political subdivision affected following the date of final enactment of the statute unless a different date is specified in the statute itself.

(4) Final enactment on or after August 25, 1951 and before May 28, 1953.—at the beginning of the fiscal year of the political subdivision affected following the date of final enactment of the statute unless a different date is specified in the statute itself, or if enacted finally after the beginning of such fiscal year, or after the date specified in the statute, immediately upon final enactment.

(5) Final enactment on or after June 6, 1969.—on the date specified in the statute, or if finally enacted thereafter, or if no date is specified, then at the beginning of the fiscal year of the political subdivision affected following the date of final enactment of the statute.

**§ 1704. Statutes enacted at a special session.**

(a) General rule.—Statutes enacted finally at a special or extraordinary session of the General Assembly shall, except as otherwise



provided in this section, be governed as to the time when they shall be effective by the rules of construction specified in this chapter for statutes enacted finally at regular sessions of the General Assembly.

(b) Rules applicable between 1935 and 1969.—Statutes enacted finally at special or extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly during the periods hereinafter specified shall be effective on the date specified by that one of the following rules of construction in effect on the date of final enactment of the statute:

(1) Final enactment on or after June 11, 1935 and before January 10, 1960.—immediately upon final enactment unless a different date is specified in the statute itself.

(2) Final enactment on or after January 10, 1960 and before June 6, 1969.—60 days after final enactment unless a different date is specified in the statute itself.

## CHAPTER 19 RULES OF CONSTRUCTION

### Subchapter

- A. Construction of Words and Phrases
- B. Construction of Statutes
- C. Amendatory Statutes
- D. Reenactments
- E. Repealing Statutes
- F. Definitions of Words and Phrases

### SUBCHAPTER A CONSTRUCTION OF WORDS AND PHRASES

#### Sec.

- 1901. Rules of interpretation.
- 1902. Number; gender; tense.
- 1903. Words and phrases.
- 1904. Numerals.
- 1905. Joint authority; quorum.
- 1906. Bonds.
- 1907. Uniform standard time.
- 1908. Computation of time.
- 1909. Time; publication for successive weeks.
- 1910. Time; computation of months.

#### § 1901. Rules of interpretation.

In the construction of the statutes of this Commonwealth, the rules set forth in this chapter shall be observed, unless the application of such rules would result in a construction inconsistent with the manifest intent of the General Assembly.

**§ 1902. Number; gender; tense.**

The singular shall include the plural, and the plural, the singular. Words used in the masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter. Words used in the past or present tense shall include the future.

**§ 1903. Words and phrases.**

(a) Words and phrases shall be construed according to rules of grammar and according to their common and approved usage; but technical words and phrases and such others as have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning or are defined in this part, shall be construed according to such peculiar and appropriate meaning or definition.

(b) General words shall be construed to take their meanings and be restricted by preceding particular words.

**§ 1904. Numerals.**

The Roman numerals and the Arabic numerals shall be deemed parts of the English language.

**§ 1905. Joint authority; quorum.**

(a) Words in a statute conferring a joint authority upon three or more public officers or other persons shall be construed to confer authority upon a majority of such officers or persons.

(b) A majority of any board or commission shall constitute a quorum.

**§ 1906. Bonds.**

A statute requiring a bond or undertaking with sureties to be given by any person, shall be construed to permit in lieu thereof a bond of indemnity or surety bond for the amount of such bond or undertaking, given by any indemnity or surety company authorized to do business in this Commonwealth, and approved by the proper authority.

**§ 1907. Uniform standard time.**

Every mention of, or reference to any hour or time in any statute, shall be construed with reference to and in accordance with the mean solar time of the 75th meridian of longitude west of Greenwich, commonly called eastern standard time, unless a different standard is therein expressly provided for, or unless the standard time shall be advanced for any portion of the year, by any act of Congress.

**§ 1908. Computation of time.**

When any period of time is referred to in any statute, such period in all cases, except as otherwise provided in section 1909 of this title (relating to publication for successive weeks) and section 1910 of this title (relating to computation of months) shall be so computed as to exclude the first and include the last day of such period. Whenever the last day of any such period shall fall on Saturday or Sunday, or on any day made a legal holiday by the laws of this Commonwealth or of the United States, such day shall be omitted from the computation.

**§ 1909. Time; publication for successive weeks.**

Whenever in any statute providing for the publishing of notices, the phrase "successive weeks" is used, weeks shall be construed as calendar weeks. The publication upon any day of such weeks shall be sufficient

publication for that week, but at least five days shall elapse between each publication. At least the number of weeks specified in "successive weeks" shall elapse between the first publication and the day for the happening of the event for which publication shall be made.

**§ 1910. Time; computation of months.**

Whenever in any statute the lapse of a number of months after or before a certain day is required, such number of months shall be computed by counting the months from such day, excluding the calendar month in which such day occurs, and shall include the day of the month in the last month so counted having the same numerical order as the day of the month from which the computation is made, unless there be not so many days in the last month so counted, in which case the period computed shall expire with the last day of such month.

**SUBCHAPTER B  
CONSTRUCTION OF STATUTES**

Sec.

- 1921. Legislative intent controls.
- 1922. Presumptions in ascertaining legislative intent.
- 1923. Grammar and punctuation of statutes.
- 1924. Construction of titles, preambles, provisos, exceptions and headings.
- 1925. Constitutional construction of statutes.
- 1926. Presumption against retroactive effect.
- 1927. Construction of uniform laws.
- 1928. Rule of strict and liberal construction.
- 1929. Penalties no bar to civil remedies.
- 1930. Penalties for each offense.
- 1931. Intent to defraud.
- 1932. Statutes in pari materia.
- 1933. Particular controls general.
- 1934. Irreconcilable clauses in the same statute.
- 1935. Irreconcilable statutes <sup>1</sup>passed by same General Assembly.
- 1936. Irreconcilable statutes passed <sup>2</sup>by different General Assemblies.
- 1937. References to statutes and regulations.
- 1938. References to public bodies and public officers.
- 1939. Use of comments and reports.

**§ 1921. Legislative intent controls.**

(a) The object of all interpretation and construction of statutes is to ascertain and effectuate the intention of the General Assembly. Every statute shall be construed, if possible, to give effect to all its provisions.

(b) When the words of a statute are clear and free from all ambiguity,

<sup>1</sup>"passing during the same session" in original.

<sup>2</sup>"at different sessions" in original.

the letter of it is not to be disregarded under the pretext of pursuing its spirit.

(c) When the words of a statute are not explicit, the intention of the General Assembly may be ascertained by considering, among other matters:

- (1) The occasion and necessity for the statute.
- (2) The circumstances under which it was enacted.
- (3) The mischief to be remedied.
- (4) The object to be attained.
- (5) The former law, if any, including other statutes upon the same or similar subjects.
- (6) The consequences of a particular interpretation.
- (7) The contemporaneous legislative history.
- (8) Legislative and administrative interpretations of such statute.

**§ 1922. Presumptions in ascertaining legislative intent.**

In ascertaining the intention of the General Assembly in the enactment of a statute the following presumptions, among others, may be used:

- (1) That the General Assembly does not intend a result that is absurd, impossible of execution or unreasonable.
- (2) That the General Assembly intends the entire statute to be effective and certain.
- (3) That the General Assembly does not intend to violate the Constitution of the United States or of this Commonwealth.
- (4) That when a court of last resort has construed the language used in a statute, the General Assembly in subsequent statutes on the same subject matter intends the same construction to be placed upon such language.
- (5) That the General Assembly intends to favor the public interest as against any private interest.

**§ 1923. Grammar and punctuation of statutes.**

(a) Grammatical errors shall not vitiate a statute. A transposition of words and clauses may be resorted to where a sentence is without meaning as it stands.

(b) In no case shall the punctuation of a statute control or affect the intention of the General Assembly in the enactment thereof unless the statute was finally enacted after December 31, 1964.

(c) Words and phrases which may be necessary to the proper interpretation of a statute and which do not conflict with its obvious purpose and intent, nor in any way affect its scope and operation, may be added in the construction thereof.

**§ 1924. Construction of titles, preambles, provisos, exceptions and headings.**

The title and preamble of a statute may be considered in the construction thereof. Provisos shall be construed to limit rather than to extend the operation of the clauses to which they refer. Exceptions expressed in a statute shall be construed to exclude all others. The

headings prefixed to titles, parts, articles, chapters, sections and other divisions of a statute shall not be considered to control but may be used to aid in the construction thereof.

**§ 1925. Constitutional construction of statutes.**

The provisions of every statute shall be severable. If any provision of any statute or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the statute, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby, unless the court finds that the valid provisions of the statute are so essentially and inseparably connected with, and so depend upon, the void provision or application, that it cannot be presumed the General Assembly would have enacted the remaining valid provisions without the void one; or unless the court finds that the remaining valid provisions, standing alone, are incomplete and are incapable of being executed in accordance with the legislative intent.

**§ 1926. Presumption against retroactive effect.**

No statute shall be construed to be retroactive unless clearly and manifestly so intended by the General Assembly.

**§ 1927. Construction of uniform laws.**

Statutes uniform with those of other states shall be interpreted and construed to effect their general purpose to make uniform the laws of those states which enact them.

**§ 1928. Rule of strict and liberal construction.**

(a) The rule that statutes in derogation of the common law are to be strictly construed, shall have no application to the statutes of this Commonwealth enacted finally after September 1, 1937.

(b) All provisions of a statute of the classes hereafter enumerated shall be strictly construed:

- (1) Penal provisions.
- (2) Retroactive provisions.
- (3) Provisions imposing taxes.
- (4) Provisions conferring the power of eminent domain.
- (5) Provisions exempting persons and property from taxation.
- (6) Provisions exempting property from the power of eminent domain.
- (7) Provisions decreasing the jurisdiction of a court of record.
- (8) Provisions enacted finally prior to September 1, 1937 which are in derogation of the common law.

(c) All other provisions of a statute shall be liberally construed to effect their objects and to promote justice.

**§ 1929. Penalties no bar to civil remedies.**

The provision in any statute for a penalty or forfeiture for its violation shall not be construed to deprive an injured person of the right to recover from the offender damages sustained by reason of the violation of such statute.

**§ 1930. Penalties for each offense.**

Whenever a penalty or forfeiture is provided for the violation of a statute, such penalty or forfeiture shall be construed to be for each such violation.

**§ 1931. Intent to defraud.**

Whenever an intent to defraud is required in any statute in order to constitute an offense, the statute shall be construed to require only an intent to defraud any person or body politic.

**§ 1932. Statutes in pari materia.**

(a) Statutes or parts of statutes are in pari materia when they relate to the same persons or things or to the same class of persons or things.

(b) Statutes in pari materia shall be construed together, if possible, as one statute.

**§ 1933. Particular controls general.**

Whenever a general provision in a statute shall be in conflict with a special provision in the same or another statute, the two shall be construed, if possible, so that effect may be given to both. If the conflict between the two provisions is irreconcilable, the special provisions shall prevail and shall be construed as an exception to the general provision, unless the general provision shall be enacted later and it shall be the manifest intention of the General Assembly that such general provision shall prevail.

**§ 1934. Irreconcilable clauses in the same statute.**

Except as provided in section 1933 of this title (relating to particular controls general), whenever, in the same statute, several clauses are irreconcilable, the clause last in order of date or position shall prevail.

**§ 1935. Irreconcilable statutes passed by same General Assembly.**

Whenever the provisions of two or more statutes enacted finally during the same General Assembly are irreconcilable, the statute latest in date of final enactment, and where two or more irreconcilable statutes are enacted finally on the same date, the statute bearing the highest number, in either case irrespective of its effective date, shall prevail from the time it becomes effective except as otherwise provided in section 1952 of this title (relating to effect of separate amendments on code provisions enacted by same General Assembly) and section 1974 of this title (relating to effect of separate repeals on code provisions by same General Assembly).

**§ 1936. Irreconcilable statutes passed by different General Assemblies.**

Whenever the provisions of two or more statutes enacted finally by different General Assemblies are irreconcilable, the statute latest in date of final enactment shall prevail.

**§ 1937. References to statutes and regulations.**

(a) A reference in a statute to a statute or to a regulation issued by a public body or public officer includes the statute or regulation with all amendments and supplements thereto and any new statute or regulation

substituted for such statute or regulation, as in force at the time of application of the provision of the statute in which such reference is made, unless the specific language or the context of the reference in the provision clearly includes only the statute or regulation as in force on the effective date of the statute in which such reference is made.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall apply to every statute finally enacted on or after July 1, 1971.

**§ 1938. References to public bodies and public officers.**

A reference in a statute to a governmental agency, department, board, commission or other public body or to a public officer includes an entity or officer which succeeds to substantially the same functions as those performed by such public body or officer on the effective date of the statute, unless the specific language or the context of the reference in the statute clearly includes only the public body or officer on the effective date of the statute.

**§ 1939. Use of comments and reports.**

The comments or report of the commission, committee, association or other entity which drafted a statute may be consulted in the construction or application of the original provisions of the statute if such comments or report were published or otherwise generally available prior to the consideration of the statute by the General Assembly, but the text of the statute shall control in the event of conflict between its text and such comments or report.

## SUBCHAPTER C AMENDATORY STATUTES

Sec.

- 1951. Interpretation of amendatory statutes.
- 1952. Effect of separate amendments on code provisions enacted by same General Assembly.
- 1953. Construction of amendatory statutes.
- 1954. Merger of subsequent amendments.
- 1955. Two or more amendments to same provision, one overlooking the other.
- 1956. Repeal of amendatory statutes and original statutes subsequently amended.
- 1957. Ineffective provisions not revived by reenactment in amendatory statutes.

**§ 1951. Interpretation of amendatory statutes.**

In ascertaining the correct reading, status and interpretation of an amendatory statute, the matter inserted within brackets shall be omitted, and the matter in italics or underscored shall be read and interpreted as part of the statute.

**§ 1952. Effect of separate amendments on code provisions enacted by same General Assembly.**

Whenever any existing statute, incorporated into and repealed by a code, is also amended by other legislation enacted <sup>1</sup>by the same General Assembly, such separate amendment shall be construed to be in force, notwithstanding the repeal by the code of the statute such other legislation amends, and such amendment shall be construed to prevail over the corresponding provisions of the code.

**§ 1953. Construction of amendatory statutes.**

Whenever a section or part of a statute is amended, the amendment shall be construed as merging into the original statute, become a part thereof, and replace the part amended, and the remainder of the original statute and the amendment shall be read together and viewed as one statute passed at one time; but the portions of the statute which were not altered by the amendment shall be construed as effective from the time of their original enactment, and the new provisions shall be construed as effective only from the date when the amendment became effective.

**§ 1954. Merger of subsequent amendments.**

Whenever a statute has been more than once amended, the latest amendment shall be read into the original statute as previously amended and not into such statute as originally enacted. This rule applies whether or not the previous amendment is referred to and whether or not its language is incorporated in the latest amendment. If the insertions in and the deletions from the statute made by the previous amendment are not incorporated in the later, they shall nevertheless be read into the later amendment as though they had in fact been incorporated therein.

**§ 1955. Two or more amendments to same provision, one overlooking the other.**

Whenever two or more amendments to the same provision of a statute are enacted at the same or different sessions, one amendment overlooking and making no reference to the other or others, the changes in the statute made by each shall be given effect and all the amendments shall be read into each other. If the changes made in the statute are to any extent in direct conflict with each other, the rules specified in section 1935 of this title (relating to irreconcilable statutes passed <sup>2</sup>by same General Assembly) and section 1936 of this title (relating to irreconcilable statutes passed <sup>3</sup>by different General Assemblies) shall govern. The fact that a later amendment (1) restates language of the original statute which was deleted by an earlier amendment, or (2) fails to restate language inserted by an earlier amendment, does not of itself create a conflict between the two amendments. Amendments are in conflict with each other only if the changes in the statute made by each without considering the inserts and strike-outs of the other cannot be put into operation simultaneously.

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<sup>1</sup>"at" in original.

<sup>2</sup>"during the same session" in original.

<sup>3</sup>"at different sessions" in original.



**§ 1956. Repeal of amendatory statutes and original statutes subsequently amended.**

The repeal of an amendatory statute does not revive the corresponding provision or section of the original statute or of any prior amendment. Except as otherwise provided in section 1952 of this title (relating to effect of separate amendments on code provisions enacted by same General Assembly), the repeal of an original statute, or section or provision of an original statute, repeals all subsequent amendments to the original statute, or to the original section or provision, as the case may be.

**§ 1957. Ineffective provisions not revived by reenactment in amendatory statutes.**

Provisions of a statute no longer effective because of having been deleted by an earlier amendment or otherwise shall not be construed as being revived by reenactment in an amendatory statute, unless it shall clearly appear by notice thereof in the title of the amendatory statute that the General Assembly intended to revive such provisions.

**SUBCHAPTER D  
REENACTMENTS**

Sec.

1961. Effect of reenactment on original statute.

1962. Repeal and reenactment.

1963. Effect of reenactment on intervening statutes.

**§ 1961. Effect of reenactment on original statute.**

Whenever a statute reenacts a former statute, the provisions common to both statutes shall date from their first adoption. Such provisions only of the former statute as are omitted from the reenactment shall be deemed abrogated, and only the new or changed provisions shall be deemed to be the law from the effective date of the reenactment.

**§ 1962. Repeal and reenactment.**

Whenever a statute is repealed and its provisions are at the same time reenacted in the same or substantially the same terms by the repealing statute, the earlier statute shall be construed as continued in active operation. All rights and liabilities incurred under such earlier statute are preserved and may be enforced.

**§ 1963. Effect of reenactment on intervening statutes.**

A statute which reenacts the provisions of an earlier statute shall not be construed to repeal an intermediate statute which modified but did not effect an amendment to such earlier statute. Such intermediate statute shall be construed to remain in force and to modify the reenactment in the same manner as it modified the earlier statute.

SUBCHAPTER E  
REPEALING STATUTES

Sec.

- 1971. Implied repeal by later statute.
- 1972. Nonexistence of reason for statute does not effect repeal.
- 1973. No implied repeal by nonuser.
- 1974. Effect of separate repeals on code provisions by same General Assembly.
- 1975. Effect of repeal on limitations.
- 1976. Effect of repeal on rights, et cetera.
- 1977. Repeal does not revive repealed statute.
- 1978. Repeal as obsolete does not affect substantive rights.

**§ 1971. Implied repeal by later statute.**

(a) Whenever a statute purports to be a revision of all statutes upon a particular subject, or sets up a general or exclusive system covering the entire subject matter of a former statute and is intended as a substitute for such former statute, such statute shall be construed to supply and therefore to repeal all former statutes upon the same subject.

(b) Whenever a general statute purports to establish a uniform and mandatory system covering a class of subjects, such statute shall be construed to supply and therefore to repeal pre-existing local or special statutes on the same class of subjects.

(c) In all other cases, a later statute shall not be construed to supply or repeal an earlier statute unless the two statutes are irreconcilable.

**§ 1972. Nonexistence of reason for statute does not effect repeal.**

A statute shall not be deemed repealed because the reason for its passage no longer exists.

**§ 1973. No implied repeal by nonuser.**

A statute shall not be deemed repealed by failure to use such statute.

**§ 1974. Effect of separate repeals on code provisions by same General Assembly.**

Whenever a statute repeals any provision of another statute incorporated into a code adopted by the same General Assembly, the statute repealing the provision so incorporated into the code shall be construed to effect a repeal of the corresponding provision of the code.

**§ 1975. Effect of repeal on limitations.**

Whenever a limitation or period of time, prescribed in any statute for acquiring a right or barring a remedy, or for any other purpose, has begun to run before a statute repealing such statute takes effect, and the same or any other limitation is prescribed in any other statute passed by the same General Assembly, the time which has already run shall be deemed part of the time prescribed as such limitation in such statute passed by the same General Assembly.

**§ 1976. Effect of repeal on rights, et cetera.**

(a) The repeal of any civil provisions of a statute shall not affect or

impair any act done, or right existing or accrued, or affect any civil action pending to enforce any right under the authority of the statute repealed. Such action may be proceeded with and concluded under the statutes in existence when such action was instituted, notwithstanding the repeal of such statutes, or such action may be proceeded with and concluded under the provisions of the new statute, if any, enacted.

(b) The repeal of any statute shall not affect the corporate existence of any private corporation created by or incorporated under such statute.

**§ 1977. Repeal does not revive repealed statute.**

The repeal of a repealing statute shall not be construed to revive the statute originally repealed.

**§ 1978. Repeal as obsolete does not affect substantive rights.**

Whenever a statute which created a personal or property right in derogation of the common law is repealed as obsolete or by a code which does not contain an express provision with respect to such personal or property right, the repeal shall not be construed to revive the prior inconsistent common law rule, but such repeal shall be construed as a recognition by the General Assembly that such personal or property right has been received into and has become a part of the common law of this Commonwealth.

## SUBCHAPTER F DEFINITIONS OF WORDS AND PHRASES

Sec.

1991. Definitions.

**§ 1991. Definitions.**

The following words and phrases, when used in any statute finally enacted on or after September 1, 1937, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

“Action.” Any suit or proceeding in any court of this Commonwealth.

“Administrator.” A fiduciary appointed under authority of law by a register of wills or court to administer the estate of a decedent.

“Adult.” An individual 21 years of age or over.

“Aeronautics.” The art and science of transportation by aircraft including the facilities connected therewith.

“Affidavit.” A statement in writing of a fact or facts signed by the party making it, sworn to or affirmed before an officer authorized by the laws of this Commonwealth to take acknowledgments of deeds, or authorized to administer oaths, or before the particular officer or individual designated by law as the one before whom it is to or may be taken, and officially certified to in the case of an officer under his seal of office.

“Aircraft.” Any contrivance used or designated for navigation of, or flight in, or to ascent into, the air, except a parachute or other contrivance designed and used primarily as safety equipment.

“Airman.” Any member of a crew of an aircraft.

“Airport.” Any place, either water or land, which is designed and used for the taking off and landing of aircraft including the facilities connected therewith.

“Almshouse.” The county home, poorhouse, home for the destitute, or any other building or place, by whatever title designated where poor persons are maintained at the public expense.

“Apiary.” Any place where one or more colonies or nuclei of bees are kept.

“As now provided by law.” A reference to the laws in force at the time when the statute containing the phrase was finally enacted.

“As provided by law.” A reference to the laws in force at the particular time when the statute containing the phrase is applied.

“Association.” Any form of unincorporated enterprise owned by two or more persons other than a partnership or limited partnership.

“Attorney at law.” An individual admitted to practice law by a court of record of this Commonwealth.

“Attorney of record.” An attorney at law who is entered on the docket or record of a court as appearing for or representing a party in a legal proceeding.

“Bequeath.” Includes devise.

“Bequest.” Includes devise and legacy.

“Bond.”

(1) An unconditional written undertaking under seal for the payment of money, or

(2) a conditional written acknowledgment of being bound for the payment of money, to become void or effective on the performance of any act or the occurrence of any event therein expressed.

“Bridge.” Includes the actual bridge and the approaches thereto, and the substructures and superstructures of both.

“Bulletin.” When used in any statute finally enacted on or after July 31, 1968, the Pennsylvania Bulletin established by the Commonwealth Documents Law.

“Certified public accountant.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice as a certified public accountant.

“Child” or “children.” Includes children by birth or adoption.

“Commission merchant.” One who receives consignments of personal property to be sold for a commission or other compensation.

“Commonwealth.” The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

“Convict.” An individual who has been finally convicted of an indictable offense and is serving sentence in a penal institution.

“Creditor.” One to whom the performance of an obligation is owed.

“Crime.” Any indictable offense.

“Crosswalk.” That portion of a highway at an intersection, or any portion of a highway, clearly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

“Day.” The time from midnight to the next midnight.

“Debtor.” One who owes to another the performance of an obligation.

“Decedent.” Either a testator or person dying intestate.

“Dental hygienist.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice as a dental hygienist.

“Dentist.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice dentistry.

“Devise.” Includes bequeath when used as a verb and bequest and legacy when used as a noun.

“Devisee.” Includes legatee.

“Doctor of medicine.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery in all its branches.

“Domestic animal.” Any equine animal, bovine animal, sheep, goat and pig.

“Effects.” Includes all personal property and any interest therein.

“Executor.” A fiduciary named in a will to execute its provisions and administer the estate of the testator.

“Factor.” One who receives consignments of personal property to be sold for a commission or other compensation.

“Farm product.” Any agricultural, horticultural, vegetable, fruit, and floricultural product of the soil, livestock and meats, wool, hides, poultry, eggs, dairy products, nuts, mushrooms and honey.

“Fiduciary.” An executor, administrator, guardian, committee, receiver, trustee, assignee for the benefit of creditors, and any other person acting in any similar capacity.

“Final enactment” or “enacted finally.” The time when the procedure required by the Constitution of Pennsylvania for the enactment of a bill has been complied with.

“Fiscal year.” The year by or for which accounts are reckoned.

“Funeral director.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth as a funeral director.

“General election.” The election held biennially on the Tuesday next following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year.

“Grantee.” One to whom any estate or interest in real property other than a leasehold passes by conveyance.

“Grantor.” One from or by whom any estate or interest in real property other than a leasehold passes by conveyance.

“Guardian.” A fiduciary who legally has the care and management of the person, or the estate, or both, of another under legal disability.

“Guardian ad litem.” A fiduciary who is appointed to represent in legal proceedings another under legal disability.

“Healing art.” The science of diagnosis and treatment in any manner whatsoever of disease or any ailment of the human body.

“Hereafter.” A reference to the time after the time when the statute containing such word takes effect.

“Heretofore.” A reference to the time previous to the time when the statute containing such word takes effect.

“Highway.” A way or place of whatever nature open to the use of the public as a matter of right for purposes of vehicular traffic.

“Individual.” A natural person.

“Insane person.” An individual of unsound mind.

“Intersection.” The area embraced within the prolongation of the lateral boundary lines of two or more highways which join one another at an angle whether or not one such highway crosses the other.

“Issue.” As applied to the descent of estates, means all lawful, lineal descendants of a common ancestor.

“Judicial sale.” A sale conducted by an officer or person authorized for the purpose by some competent tribunal.

“Legacy.” Includes devise and bequest.

“Legatee.” Includes devisee.

“Legislature.” The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

“Licensed practical nurse.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice practical nursing.

“Lunatic.” An individual of unsound mind.

“Majority.” When used in reference to age, means of the age of 21 years or over.

“Medicine and surgery.” The art and science having for their object the cure of diseases of and the preservation of the health of man, including all practice of the healing art with or without drugs, except healing by spiritual means or prayer.

“Midwife.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice midwifery.

“Minor.” An individual under the age of 21 years.

“Money.” Lawful money of the United States.

“Month.” A calendar month.

“Motor boat.” Any boat propelled by any type of internal combustion motor.

“Motorcycle.” Any vehicle of the bicycle or tricycle type operated by any type of internal combustion motor.

“Motor vehicle.” Any self-propelled device in, upon or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, except tractors, power shovels, road machinery, agricultural machinery, and vehicles which move upon or are guided by a track or trolley.

“Municipality authority” or “municipal authority.” A body corporate and politic created pursuant to the Municipality Authorities Act of 1935 or to the Municipality Authorities Act of 1945.

“Municipal corporation.” A city, borough or incorporated town.

“Municipal election.” The election held on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November in each odd-numbered year.

“Municipality.” A city, borough or incorporated town.

“Nighttime.” The time from sunset to sunrise.

“Non compos mentis.” Of unsound mind.

“Notary.” A notary public.

“Now.” In any provision of a statute referring to other laws in force, or to persons in office, or to any facts or circumstances as existing, relates to the laws in force, or to the persons in office, or to the facts or circumstances existing, respectively, on the effective date of such provision.

“Oath.” Includes affirmation.

“Optometrist” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice optometry.

“Osteopath.” A physician licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice osteopathy.

“Osteopathic surgeon.” A physician licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice osteopathy and osteopathic surgery.

“Parking.” Suffering a vehicle to stand on any highway while not actually engaged in a traffic movement nor in taking up or setting down passengers or merchandise.

“Pedestrian.” An individual afoot.

“Person.” Includes a corporation, partnership, and association, as well as a natural person.

“Personal representative.” The executor or administrator of a decedent.

“Pharmacist.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice as a pharmacist.

“Physician.”

(1) When used in any statute finally enacted on or before April 6, 1951, an individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery in any or all of its branches;

(2) when used in any statute finally enacted on or after April 7, 1951 and on or before June 14, 1957, an individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery in any or in all of its branches within the scope of the act of June 3, 1911 (P.L.639) relating to medicine and surgery and its amendments, or in the practice of osteopathy or osteopathic surgery within the scope of the act of March 19, 1909 (No. 29) and its amendments; and

(3) when used in any statute finally enacted on or after June 15, 1957, an individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery in all of its branches within the scope of the act of June 3, 1911 (P.L.639) relating to medicine and surgery and its amendments, or in the practice of osteopathy or osteopathic surgery within the scope of the act of March 19, 1909 (No. 29) and its amendments.

“Political subdivision.” Any county, city, borough, incorporated town, township, school district, vocational school district and county institution district.

“Poultry.” Includes all domestic fowl.

“Primary election.” Any election at which the members of qualified political parties nominate their candidates for public office.

“Professional engineer.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice as a professional engineer.

“Property.” Includes both real and personal property.

“Publish” or “published.” As applied to the publication of a newspaper of general circulation means the place where such newspaper is originally issued and circulated.

“Real estate broker.” One licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to act as a real estate broker.

“Real estate salesman.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to act as a real estate salesman.

“Registered architect.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice architecture.

“Registered nurse.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice professional nursing.

“Safety zone.” The area or space officially set aside within a highway for the use of pedestrians.

“Signature.” Includes mark when the individual cannot write, his name being written near it, and witnessed by another who writes his own name.

“Special election.” Any election authorized by law, other than a general, municipal or primary election.

“State.” When used in reference to the different parts of the United States, includes the District of Columbia and the several territories of the United States.

“Statute.” An act of the General Assembly, whether under the authority of the Commonwealth or of the late Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania.

“Surveyor.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice land surveying.

“Sworn.” Includes affirmed.

“Trustee.” One in whom some estate, interest or power in or affecting property of any description is vested for the benefit of another.

“Undertaker.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice as an undertaker, undertaker and embalmer, embalmer, funeral director or mortician.

“Vehicle.” A conveyance in or on which persons or property may be carried.

“Verified.” When used in reference to writings, means supported by oath or affirmation.



“Veterinarian.” An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice veterinary medicine and surgery.

“Will.” Includes codicil.

“Written.” Every legible representation of letters or numerals upon a material substance, except when used in reference to the signature of an instrument.

“Year.” A calendar year.

Section 4. The following acts and parts of acts are repealed absolutely:

(1) Sections I, II, III and VIII, act of January 28, 1777 (1Sm.L.429), entitled “An ACT to revive and put in force such and so much of the late laws of the province of Pennsylvania, as is judged necessary to be in force in this commonwealth, and to revive and establish the Courts of Justice, and for other purposes therein mentioned.”

(2) Section 13, act of March 21, 1806 (P.L.558), entitled “An ACT to regulate Arbitrations and Proceedings in Courts of Justice.”

(3) Sections 1 and 2, act of March 24, 1818 (P.L.277), entitled “An act directing a further distribution of the laws and journals of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth.”

(4) Act of April 6, 1899 (P.L.32 No. 28), entitled “An act relating to the printing of the pamphlet laws; requiring amendments to be printed in distinct and different type.”

(5) Act of April 29, 1915 (P.L.204 No. 117), entitled “An act regulating the printing of the laws of this Commonwealth.”

(6) Joint resolution of March 24, 1921 (P.L.53 No. 26), entitled “A joint resolution directing the publication of the pamphlet containing the game, fish, and forestry laws.”

(7) Act of May 15, 1929 (P.L.1763 No. 571), entitled “An act authorizing the Department of Public Instruction, through the State Library and Museum, to collect, classify and edit additional volumes of the Statutes-at-Large; providing for the publication of said volumes; and making an appropriation.”

(8) Act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.1019 No. 282), known as the “Statutory Construction Act.”

(9) Act of August 9, 1963 (P.L.627 No. 335), entitled “An act requiring bills or joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution to be printed so as to indicate additions or deletions.”

(10) Act of August 17, 1965 (P.L.345 No. 180), entitled “An act relating to amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution; imposing duties on the Governor and other executive officers regarding the announcement of the adoption thereof and the numbering of articles and sections of the Constitution under certain circumstances.”

(11) Act of August 17, 1965 (P.L.345 No. 181), entitled “An act relating to section headings of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.”

Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 6th day of December, A. D. 1972.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly  
No. 290.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a prominent "T" at the end.

*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*