

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 814 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY EMRICK, FREEMAN, COHEN, JAMES, HELM, FABRIZIO, STAATS, TOPPER, MACKENZIE, HARHART, LAWRENCE, B. MILLER, HEFFLEY, DIAMOND, HICKERNELL, O'NEILL, TOOIL, TOEPEL, MENTZER, HAHN, GABLER, RADER, D. PARKER, MURT, JOZWIAK, R. BROWN, PEIFER, DUSH, GILLEN, KORTZ, SACCONI, EVANKOVICH, SAMUELSON, KAUFFMAN AND SANTARSIERO, MARCH 17, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 17, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 25, 1931 (P.L.1352, No.332), entitled  
 2 "An act providing for joint action by the Commonwealth of  
 3 Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey in the  
 4 administration, operation, and maintenance of bridges over  
 5 the Delaware River, and for the construction of additional  
 6 bridge facilities across said river; authorizing the  
 7 Governor, for these purposes, to enter into an agreement with  
 8 the State of New Jersey; creating a Delaware River Joint Toll  
 9 Bridge Commission and specifying the powers and duties  
 10 thereof, including the power to finance the construction of  
 11 additional bridges by the issuance of revenue bonds to be  
 12 redeemed from revenues derived from tolls collected at such  
 13 bridges; transferring to said commission all powers now  
 14 exercised by existing commission created to acquire toll  
 15 bridges over the Delaware River; and making an  
 16 appropriation," further providing for audits.

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

19 Section 1. Article IX of section 1 of the act of June 25,  
 20 1931 (P.L.1352, No.332), referred to as the Delaware River Joint  
 21 Toll Bridge Compact, amended July 11, 1996 (P.L.556, No.99), is  
 22 amended to read:

23 Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the Governor is hereby

1 authorized to enter into a compact or agreement, on behalf of  
2 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with the State of New Jersey  
3 in substantially the following form:

4

5

AGREEMENT

6

7

BETWEEN

8

9

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

10

11

AND

12

13

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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15

CREATING THE DELAWARE RIVER JOINT TOLL BRIDGE COMMISSION

16

AS A BODY CORPORATE AND POLITIC AND DEFINING

17

ITS POWERS AND DUTIES

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19

Whereas, The Commission, on behalf of the Commonwealth of

20

Pennsylvania, existing by virtue of the act, approved the eighth

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day of May, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen (Pamphlet

22

Laws, one hundred forty-eight), and its supplements and

23

amendments, and the commission, on behalf of the State of New

24

Jersey, existing by virtue of the provisions of the act,

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approved the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and

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twelve (Chapter, two hundred ninety-seven), and its supplements

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and amendments, acting as a joint commission, have acquired

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various toll bridges over the Delaware River between the

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey; and

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Whereas, Additional bridge facilities between the two States

1 will be required in the future for the accommodation of the  
2 public and the development of both States; and

3       Whereas, Such additional bridge facilities should be  
4 developed without the expediture of large sums from the public  
5 revenues; and

6       Whereas, It is highly desirable that there be a single agency  
7 for both States empowered to further the transportation  
8 interests of these States with respect to that part of the  
9 Delaware River north of the stone arch bridge of the  
10 Pennsylvania Railroad from Morrisville to Trenton; now  
11 therefore,

12       The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey  
13 do hereby solemnly covenant and agree, each with the other, as  
14 follows:

15                               \* \* \*

16                               ARTICLE IX.

17       The commission shall make annual reports to the Governors and  
18 Legislatures of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State  
19 of New Jersey setting forth in detail its operations and  
20 transactions, and may make such additional reports from time to  
21 time to the Governors and Legislatures, as it may deem  
22 advisable.

23       [The commission shall submit biennially to a performance  
24 audit jointly conducted by the Auditor General of Pennsylvania  
25 and the State Auditor of New Jersey, which shall include  
26 expenditures and operations of the commission. These auditors  
27 shall complete the performance audit and prepare a joint report  
28 by December 31 of every odd-numbered year, with the first audit  
29 and report to be completed by December 31, 1997. A report of  
30 those audits shall be submitted to the Governors and

1 Legislatures of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State  
2 of New Jersey and to the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge  
3 Commission.

4 An annual financial audit shall be conducted at the expense  
5 of the commission by an independent accounting firm in  
6 accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A  
7 written report of each audit shall be submitted to the  
8 commission and shall be retained by the commission for at least  
9 five years.]

10 The Auditor General of Pennsylvania and the State Auditor of  
11 New Jersey shall jointly conduct annual financial and management  
12 audits of expenditures and operations of the commission and  
13 shall submit a report of those audits to the Governors and  
14 Legislatures of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State  
15 of New Jersey.

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 2. The Governor shall not enter into a supplemental  
18 compact or agreement on behalf of the Commonwealth of  
19 Pennsylvania until passage by the State of New Jersey of a  
20 substantially similar act embodying a supplemental compact or  
21 agreement between the two states.

22 Section 3. The Governor shall publish the date of execution  
23 of any supplemental compact or agreement referenced in section 2  
24 as a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

25 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.