



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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Summary SB 555 PN 757

This legislation creates The Health Advisory Panel on Shale Gas Extraction and Natural Gas Use.

The panel is composed of the Secretaries of Health and Environmental Protection or their designees, four members appointed by the General Assembly and three members appointed by the Governor. Both legislative and gubernatorial appointees shall:

- Serve for a term of two years,
- Be residents of the Commonwealth,
- Not hold any other position as an elected official or employee of the Commonwealth, and
- Each collectively have expertise in:
 - Public health
 - Earth and mineral sciences
 - Environmental studies
 - Shale gas extraction and
 - Natural gas use

Appointments must be made within 30 days of the effective date. Vacancies must also be filled within 30 days and shall be for the unexpired term only.

Five members shall constitute a quorum and a majority vote will be required to adopt resolutions or take action. Members are only entitled to reimbursement for necessary and reasonable expenses and may not serve more than three consecutive two year terms.

The Advisory Panel shall meet at least biannually and will be subject to the State Adverse Interest Act, the Right-to-Know Law and ethics standards. Actions of the panel are not appealable to the department or a court of law.

Members shall consult with experts in the field and the Department of Health for the purpose of advising elected officials, regulators and the general public on the safe, efficient and environmentally responsible extraction and use of natural gas reserves in the Commonwealth.

Amendment A02681

- Consolidates the sections dealing with legislative and gubernatorial appointments
- Makes other technical and clarifying changes

Effective and Expiration Dates

This act shall take effect in 30 days.

This act shall expire in six years unless otherwise reenacted.