

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 170 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY ELLIS, JAMES, KILLION, HEFFLEY, MURT, A. HARRIS, DUSH, KORTZ, KOTIK, NEUMAN, READSHAW, GIBBONS, SIMS, COHEN, SONNEY, PICKETT, DEAN, CHRISTIANA, O'BRIEN, BRIGGS, DERMODY, MARSHALL, QUIGLEY, WATSON, TOOHIL, ORTITAY AND EVERETT, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

AN ACT

1 Providing for museum preservation and for grant program;  
 2 imposing duties on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
 3 Commission; establishing the Pennsylvania Museum Preservation  
 4 Fund; and making an appropriation.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
 9 Museum Preservation Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
 12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
 13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "AAM." The American Alliance of Museums.

15 "Accredited museum." A museum that has been accredited by  
 16 the American Alliance of Museums.

17 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum

1 Commission.

2 "Core documents." A mission statement, code of ethics,  
3 strategic plan, disaster or emergency plan or collections  
4 management policy.

5 "Eligible museum." A museum meeting the criteria for grants  
6 under section 3.

7 "Fund." The Pennsylvania Museum Preservation Fund  
8 established under section 4.

9 Section 3. Grant program.

10 (a) Establishment.--The commission shall establish a program  
11 to receive applications and award grants to eligible museums  
12 under this act.

13 (b) Guidelines.--The commission shall establish guidelines  
14 that are consistent with the provisions of this act within 120  
15 days of the effective date of this section. The guidelines shall  
16 be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and posted on the  
17 publicly accessible Internet website of the commission.

18 (c) Program requirements.--

19 (1) In order to receive a grant under this act, a museum  
20 must be in one of the following categories:

21 (i) Botanic gardens and arboreta.

22 (ii) Children's museum.

23 (iii) A general museum with two or more equally  
24 significant disciplines.

25 (iv) History museum.

26 (v) Historical society.

27 (vi) Historic house or site.

28 (vii) Military or maritime museum.

29 (viii) Natural history museum.

30 (ix) Nature center.

1           (x) Planetarium.  
2           (xi) Science and technology center.  
3           (xii) Multipurpose organization. An individual  
4 museum within a multipurpose government or tax-exempt  
5 organization may apply for a grant if the museum  
6 functions as a discrete unit with the parent  
7 organization. A museum that is part of a larger  
8 organization must be deemed eligible if the museum:

9           (A) has administrative autonomy for its  
10 operations;

11           (B) has a fully segregated and itemized  
12 operating budget with the parent organization;

13           (C) may separately and distinctly fulfill the  
14 eligibility and application requirements as defined  
15 in the guidelines established under subsection (b);  
16 and

17           (D) meets the AAM definition of a museum.

18       (2) (i) In addition to satisfying paragraph (1), A  
19 museum must commit to the AAM Pledge of Excellence prior  
20 to receipt of the grant.

21           (ii) The requirement under subparagraph (i) must be  
22 evidenced by the completion of core document verification  
23 with the AAM within two years of the effective date of  
24 this section.

25       (d) Grant limits.--The commission may award grants to an  
26 eligible museum that satisfies the requirements of this section.  
27 The grants may not exceed the following amounts:

28           (1) An eligible museum with an operating budget of more  
29 than \$100,000 may apply for grants equal to 15% of its  
30 operating budget.

1           (2) A museum with AAM accreditation may receive an  
2 additional grant of up to 1% of its operating budget.

3           (3) Grants, including additional grants under paragraph  
4 (2), may not exceed \$500,000 in total for an eligible museum.

5 Section 4. Pennsylvania Museum Preservation Fund.

6           (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Museum Preservation  
7 Fund is established in the State Treasury as a special fund.

8           (b) Appropriation.--Money in the fund is hereby appropriated  
9 to the commission on a continuing basis for the purposes  
10 authorized under this act.

11           (c) Transfer.--The Commonwealth shall transfer 3.1% of the  
12 funds collected by the realty transfer tax under Article XI-C of  
13 the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform  
14 Code of 1971, from the General Fund into the Pennsylvania Museum  
15 Preservation Fund.

16 Section 5. Effective date.

17           This act shall take effect in 60 days.