

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2304 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY SAINATO, BARRAR, KINSEY, HARHART, READSHAW, ROZZI, MILLARD, MAHONEY, PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL, BOBACK, D. COSTA, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, D. MILLER, HARHAI, DEASY, THOMAS, CONKLIN, HENNESSEY AND MATZIE, SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 75 (Vehicles) of the  
 2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military  
 3 and Veterans Affairs, further providing for Pennsylvania  
 4 Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund; in State Veterans' Commission  
 5 and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further  
 6 providing for Veterans' Trust Fund; in Pennsylvania Veterans'  
 7 Memorial Commission, repealing provisions relating to the  
 8 Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund and to expiration;  
 9 and, in registration of vehicles, further providing for  
 10 Pennsylvania monument registration plate.

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

13 Section 1. Sections 710 and 1721(c)(5) of Title 51 of the  
 14 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

15 § 710. Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust  
 16 Fund.

17 (a) [Administration.--] Establishment and administration.--

18 There is hereby established a separate fund in the State  
 19 Treasury to be known as the Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and  
 20 Memorial Trust Fund. The [separate fund in the State Treasury

1 known as the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund] fund  
2 shall be administered by the [State Veterans' Commission]  
3 department, and all moneys in the fund are appropriated to the  
4 [State Veterans' Commission] department on a continuing basis[.]  
5 for the purposes provided for under subsection (b). The State  
6 Veterans' Commission shall assist the department in accordance  
7 with section 1704(1) (relating to specific powers and duties).

8 (b) Purpose.--The moneys in the fund shall be used for the  
9 promotion, administration, operation [and], maintenance and  
10 completion of the [Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial on the  
11 grounds of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery] monuments and  
12 memorials dedicated to Pennsylvania veterans and military units  
13 and other costs incidental thereto as approved by the  
14 department. [Moneys in the fund may be used to pay any  
15 construction costs which have not been paid on the effective  
16 date of this section.]

17 (c) Contributions and solicitation of funds.--

18 (1) The [State Veterans' Commission] department is  
19 authorized:

20 (i) To accept, on behalf of the Commonwealth, gifts,  
21 donations, legacies and usages of money from individuals,  
22 organizations, public or private corporations and other  
23 similar entities.

24 (ii) To solicit and raise moneys from public and  
25 private sources.

26 (2) All money received or raised under this subsection  
27 shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the  
28 fund.

29 (3) The department may use up to 2% of the available  
30 funds as of October 31 of each calendar year to administer

1 the fund in accordance with this section.

2 (d) Operation and maintenance.--Money must be granted for  
3 the operation and maintenance of monuments as designated by the  
4 department in consultation with the State Veterans' Commission.  
5 At a minimum, the following monuments will receive funding, as  
6 needed, for operation and maintenance:

7 (1) Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial on the grounds of  
8 the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

9 (2) American battle monuments located overseas  
10 officially owned or recognized by the Commonwealth.

11 (3) Pennsylvania unit monuments and markers within the  
12 Gettysburg National Military Park.

13 (4) Other Pennsylvania military memorials and monuments  
14 as designated or recognized by the department.

15 § 1721. Veterans' Trust Fund.

16 \* \* \*

17 (c) Authorized purposes.--The department may expend money  
18 from the Veterans' Trust Fund for the following purposes:

19 \* \* \*

20 [(5) Assistance to operate, maintain and repair  
21 Pennsylvania monuments honoring Pennsylvania service members  
22 and veterans who served in the United States or overseas.]

23 \* \* \*

24 Section 2. Sections 1905 and 1906 of Title 51 are repealed:

25 [§ 1905. Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund.

26 (a) Establishment and administration.--There is hereby  
27 established a separate fund in the State Treasury to be known as  
28 the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund. The fund shall  
29 be administered by the commission, and all moneys in the fund  
30 are appropriated to the commission on a continuing basis.

1 (b) Purpose.--The moneys in the fund shall be used for the  
2 selection, design, construction, operation and maintenance of an  
3 appropriate physical monument on the grounds of the Indiantown  
4 Gap National Cemetery and other costs incidental thereto.

5 (c) Contributions and solicitation of funds.--

6 (1) The commission is authorized:

7 (i) To accept, on behalf of the Commonwealth, gifts,  
8 donations, legacies and usages of money from individuals,  
9 organizations, public or private corporations and other  
10 similar entities.

11 (ii) To solicit and raise moneys from public and  
12 private sources.

13 (2) All money received or raised under this subsection  
14 shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the  
15 fund.

16 § 1906. Expiration.

17 Sections 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904 of this chapter shall  
18 expire June 30, 2005.]

19 Section 3. Section 1353.1(c) and (d) of Title 75 are amended  
20 to read:

21 § 1353.1. Pennsylvania monument registration plate.

22 \* \* \*

23 (c) Proceeds.--The [Veterans' Trust] Pennsylvania Veterans'  
24 Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund shall receive \$23 of the fee  
25 paid by the applicant for the registration plate under  
26 subsection (a).

27 (d) Use of proceeds.--Proceeds under subsection (c) shall be  
28 used exclusively to provide grants to nonprofit organizations  
29 for the cleaning, repair and restoration of Pennsylvania  
30 monuments and memorials by the Gettysburg National Military

1 Park. A grant under this subsection may not be used to pay for  
2 the cost of cleaning, repair or restoration of the grounds  
3 surrounding a Pennsylvania monument or memorial.

4 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.