
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 641 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, D. COSTA, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHREIBER, KINSEY,
McNEILL, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, DIAMOND, COHEN, MILLARD,
DAVIDSON, WATSON, MOUL, A. HARRIS, V. BROWN, QUINN, HELM,
YOUNGBLOOD, KAUFFMAN AND WARD, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

AN ACT

1 Providing for dedication of portion of sales and use tax; and
2 establishing the Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Tourism,
7 Museum and Arts Funding Act.

8 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) Tourism is an important part of Pennsylvania's
11 economy, with visitors spending billions of dollars a year
12 and supporting thousands of jobs at hotels, restaurants,
13 museums, arts and cultural organizations and recreational,
14 historical and outdoor attractions.

15 (2) State government, working in partnership with local
16 tourism agencies, museums and arts and cultural agencies, has

1 a responsibility to promote and market this Commonwealth to
2 out-of-State leisure and business travelers.

3 (3) A dedicated source of revenue for tourism marketing
4 and promotion and for grants to museums and the arts will
5 enable the Commonwealth to promote economic development,
6 support our many museums and foster the diversity and
7 strength of arts and culture in communities throughout this
8 Commonwealth.

9 Section 3. Definitions.

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

13 "Destination marketing organization." A nonprofit
14 corporation, organization, association or agency that is engaged
15 in tourism promotion or marketing on a regional or Statewide
16 basis to attract leisure or business travelers to this
17 Commonwealth.

18 "Fund." The Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund established
19 by this act.

20 "Official tourism promotion and marketing agency of the
21 Commonwealth." The nonprofit corporation, organization,
22 association or State agency established by law or designated by
23 the Department of Community and Economic Development as the
24 official tourism promotion and marketing agency of the
25 Commonwealth.

26 "Tourism promotion agency." A recognized nonprofit
27 corporation, organization, association or agency that is engaged
28 in planning and promoting programs designed to stimulate and
29 increase the volume of tourist, visitor and vacation business
30 within counties served by the agency as that term is defined in

1 the act of July 4, 2008 (P.L.621, No.50), known as the Tourism
2 Promotion Act.

3 Section 4. Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund.

4 (a) Establishment.--The Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund
5 is established in the State Treasury.

6 (b) Deposits.--The revenue collected under section 5 shall
7 be deposited into the fund within 60 days of collection.

8 (c) Use of revenues.--The money in the fund is hereby
9 appropriated on a continuing basis to the fund and shall not
10 lapse. Except as provided in subsection (d), payments from the
11 fund shall be made upon warrant of the State Treasurer after
12 receipt of a requisition from the appropriate agency under this
13 act.

14 (d) Initial distribution of funds.--No funds shall be
15 distributed under section 5 prior to July 1, 2016.

16 Section 5. Funding for tourism, museums and arts.

17 (a) Source of funding.--The revenue generated from one-sixth
18 of the tax levied under section 210 of the act of March 4, 1971
19 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, shall be
20 deposited into the fund for use as provided by this act.

21 (b) Allocation of funds.--The money in the fund shall be
22 allocated as follows:

23 (1) Sixty percent of the revenue shall be used by the
24 official tourism promotion and marketing agency of the
25 Commonwealth for tourism marketing, promotion and development
26 activities to attract leisure and business travelers to this
27 Commonwealth and for matching grants to destination marketing
28 organizations and tourism promotion agencies.

29 (2) Twenty percent of the revenue shall be used by the
30 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for museum

1 assistance grants.

2 (3) Twenty percent of the revenue shall be used by the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for grants
4 to the arts.

5 Section 6. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.