

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2035 Session of 2007

INTRODUCED BY SEIP, BEAR, GOODMAN, BAKER, BASTIAN, BENNINGTON, COSTA, CURRY, DePASQUALE, HARKINS, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, KORTZ, MARKOSEK, McCALL, MUSTIO, PASHINSKI, PETRONE, PICKETT, READSHAW, REICHLEY, K. SMITH, M. SMITH, SAYLOR, MANDERINO, MARSHALL, SIPTROTH, ROEBUCK, ARGALL, TRUE, HARPER, FLECK, YOUNGBLOOD, MAHONEY, CONKLIN, FREEMAN, SHIMKUS, J. WHITE PHILLIPS, R. MILLER, MAJOR, WALKO AND ELLIS, NOVEMBER 15, 2007

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 1, 2008

AN ACT

1 Providing for a Heritage Area Program to identify, protect,  
2 enhance and promote the historic, recreational, cultural,  
3 natural and scenic resources of this Commonwealth and to  
4 stimulate community sustainability and economic development  
5 through heritage, outdoor recreation and ecotourism; and  
6 making an appropriation.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Commonwealth  
11 Heritage Development Act.

12 Section 2. Definitions.

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

16 "Board." The Board of Commonwealth Partners as established

1 in section 5.

2 "Department." The Department of Conservation and Natural  
3 Resources of the Commonwealth.

4 "Heritage area." A designated geographic region or corridor  
5 of this Commonwealth that contains a multitude of historic,  
6 recreational, cultural, natural and scenic resources of State  
7 significance that collectively exemplify the heritage of this  
8 Commonwealth.

9 "Program." The Heritage Area Program established in section  
10 3.

11 Section 3. Heritage Area Program.

12 (a) Establishment.--The Heritage Area Program is established  
13 within the department to identify, protect, enhance and promote  
14 the historic, recreational, natural, cultural and scenic  
15 resources of this Commonwealth and to stimulate community  
16 sustainability and economic development through heritage,  
17 outdoor recreation and ecotourism.

18 (b) Administration.--The department shall adopt ~~regulations~~ <—  
19 GUIDELINES and policies for the implementation and <—  
20 administration of the program.

21 (c) Funding.--

22 (1) The department shall allocate all funds ~~authorized~~ <—  
23 ~~by this act and~~ ANNUALLY appropriated by the General Assembly <—  
24 ~~for the program.~~ <—

25 ~~(2) The General Assembly shall appropriate to each~~  
26 ~~designated heritage area a sufficient amount annually for~~  
27 ~~implementing the management plan and for carrying out~~  
28 ~~heritage development grant and investment programs within the~~  
29 ~~area, including administration and operations.~~

30 ~~(3) The General Assembly shall appropriate to the~~

1 ~~department a sufficient amount annually for the~~ IN EQUAL ←  
2 AMOUNTS TO EACH OF THE HERITAGE AREAS DESIGNATED BY THIS ACT  
3 FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FOR  
4 CARRYING OUT HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GRANT AND INVESTMENT  
5 PROGRAMS WITHIN THE AREA, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION AND  
6 OPERATION.

7 (2) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO ALLOCATE NO MORE  
8 THAN 5% OF THE ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FUNDING FOR THE  
9 administration of this act ~~and~~, FOR programs that promote ←  
10 heritage development within this Commonwealth AND ←

11 ~~(4) The department may fund local~~ FOR feasibility ←  
12 studies ~~and management plans~~ outside the boundaries of ←  
13 already existing heritage areas.

14 (d) Designation.--The following areas are hereby designated  
15 as heritage areas for the purposes of this act:

16 (1) Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area, which includes  
17 ALLEGHENY, Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon ~~and Somerset~~, INDIANA, ←  
18 JUNIATA, MIFFLIN, PERRY, SOMERSET AND WESTMORELAND Counties.

19 (2) Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Park Corridor,  
20 which includes Bucks, Carbon, Lehigh, Luzerne and Northampton  
21 Counties.

22 (3) Endless Mountains Heritage Region, which includes  
23 Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.

24 (4) Lackawanna Heritage Valley, which includes  
25 Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Wayne Counties.

26 (5) Lancaster-York Heritage Region, which includes  
27 Lancaster and York Counties.

28 (6) Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor, which includes  
29 Adams, Bedford, Franklin, Fulton, Somerset and Westmoreland  
30 Counties.

1 (7) Lumber Heritage Region, which includes Cambria,  
2 Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest,  
3 Indiana, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga and  
4 Warren Counties.

5 (8) National Road Heritage Park, which includes Fayette,  
6 Somerset and Washington Counties.

7 (9) Oil Heritage Region, which includes Crawford and  
8 Venango Counties.

9 (10) Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, which  
10 includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Green,  
11 Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

12 (11) PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor, which includes  
13 Bradford, Crawford, Erie, Lackawanna, McKean, Pike, Potter,  
14 Tioga, Warren, WAYNE and Wyoming Counties. ←

15 (12) Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area,  
16 which includes Berks, Chester, Montgomery, Philadelphia and  
17 Schuylkill Counties.

18 (e) Additional designations.--Future heritage areas beyond  
19 those specified in this act may be established AND RECEIVE ←  
20 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS only by act of the General Assembly. Each  
21 newly designated heritage area shall develop, in partnership  
22 with the department, a management action plan that will address  
23 the goals and objectives of the new heritage area. The plan must  
24 be approved by the Board of Commonwealth Partners for the  
25 heritage area to be officially designated.

26 Section 4. Program goals.

27 A heritage area shall include a plan that incorporates the  
28 following primary goals:

29 (1) To strengthen regional and local economies through  
30 heritage tourism, community revitalization and other

1 activities that will enhance the quality of life and economic  
2 vitality of the area.

3 (2) To establish partnerships and coalitions, including,  
4 but not limited to, those among Federal, State and local  
5 governments, public officials, businesses, civic leaders,  
6 community organizations, planners, educators,  
7 preservationists, conservationists and other individuals.

8 (3) To work with communities to protect, document,  
9 maintain and interpret the area's tangible and intangible  
10 cultural resources, including community-based ethnic,  
11 occupational, religious and other folklife traditions,  
12 including lore, skills, customs, practices, stories, and the  
13 built and natural environment that supports them, in order to  
14 facilitate cultural continuity, promote intercultural  
15 awareness and respect, and to encourage public appreciation  
16 of the Commonwealth's distinctive and varied cultural legacy.

17 (4) To develop and enhance greenways and conserve open  
18 space to link the significant natural, scenic, cultural,  
19 recreational and historic sites through rivers, trails,  
20 byways and outdoor recreational activities.

21 (5) To communicate and promote the significance of the  
22 area's resources and stories through historical  
23 interpretation, events and programs for the benefit of  
24 students, educators, visitors and the general public.

25 Section 5. Board of Commonwealth Partners.

26 (a) Establishment.--The Board of Commonwealth Partners is  
27 established in the department.

28 (b) Membership.--The secretary or chief executive official  
29 of the following agencies and organizations or their designee  
30 shall be a member of the board:

- 1 (1) Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.
- 2 (2) Department of Agriculture.
- 3 (3) Department of Community and Economic Development.
- 4 (4) Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- 5 (5) Department of Education.
- 6 (6) Department of Environmental Protection.
- 7 (7) Department of Transportation.
- 8 (8) Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.
- 9 (9) Pennsylvania Humanities Council.
- 10 (10) The Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Association.

11 (c) Powers and duties.--The board shall have the following  
12 powers and duties.---: <---

13 (1) To review applications for new heritage areas and  
14 provide recommendations to the General Assembly.

15 (2) To provide expertise on programs and issues related  
16 to their agency or organization.

17 (3) To assist in obtaining additional funds through  
18 grants and loans available from the Federal Government, other  
19 State agencies and other sources.

20 (4) To provide technical assistance to heritage areas.

21 (5) To promote heritage development and heritage areas  
22 within their respective agencies and throughout this  
23 Commonwealth.

24 (d) Meetings.--The board shall meet at least once every  
25 three months or more often as necessary to fulfill its duties  
26 and shall meet periodically with heritage areas to carry out the  
27 administration of this act.

28 (e) Personnel and resources.--The department shall provide  
29 the necessary personnel and resources to the board to fulfill  
30 its duties under this act.

1 Section 6. Appropriation.

2 The sum of ~~\$5,000,000~~ \$5,300,000 is hereby appropriated to <—  
3 the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources FOR THE <—  
4 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2008, TO JUNE 30, 2009, for the purpose of  
5 providing funding to heritage areas DESIGNATED IN SECTION 3(D) <—  
6 and for the administrative costs associated with that funding.

7 Section 7. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect immediately.