

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 839 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY RESCHENTHALER, VULAKOVICH, RAFFERTY, SCARNATI AND
VOGEL, AUGUST 29, 2017

REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AUGUST 29, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to
3 government and administration, providing for designation of
4 place of worship as building of historical or architectural
5 significance.

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

8 Section 1. Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

10 § 1142. Designation of place of worship as building of
11 historical or architectural significance.

12 (a) Consent required.--A municipality may not designate or
13 nominate for designation a religious structure as a building of
14 historical or architectural significance if a person having
15 legal or equitable title to the building does not consent to the
16 designation or nomination.

17 (b) Definition.--As used in this section, the term
18 "religious structure" means a building or other structure that:

19 (1) serves as a church, synagogue or other place of

1 worship on the date that the municipality in which the
2 building or other structure is located seeks to designate the
3 building or other structure as historically or
4 architecturally significant;

5 (2) has served as a church, synagogue or other place of
6 worship within five years of the date that the municipality
7 in which the building or other structure is located seeks to
8 designate the building or other structure as historically or
9 architecturally significant; or

10 (3) is located on real property that is wholly or
11 partially tax exempt as a place of regularly stated religious
12 worship on the date that the municipality in which the
13 building or other structure is located seeks to designate the
14 building or other structure as historically or
15 architecturally significant. A building or structure
16 described in this paragraph shall be conclusively deemed to
17 be a religious structure under this section.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.