

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1190 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY CALTAGIRONE, BELFANTI, BROOKS, CAPPELLI, COHEN,
DALEY, DALLY, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHAI,
HARKINS, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KIRKLAND,
KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MANN, McCALL, PETRONE, REICHLEY, RUBLEY,
SAINATO, STURLA, SURRA, SWANGER, TANGRETTI AND YUDICHAK,
MAY 4, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MAY 4, 2007

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 9 (Burial Grounds) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for the restoration of
3 cemeteries.

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

6 Section 1. Title 9 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes
7 is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 4

9 CEMETERY RELIEF

10 Sec.

11 401. Definitions.

12 402. State Board of Cemetery Relief Directors.

13 403. Cemetery relief.

14 404. Cemetery Relief Fund.

15 § 401. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Application." An application for cemetery relief submitted
4 pursuant to this chapter by a board of county commissioners.

5 "Board." The State Board of Cemetery Relief Directors
6 established pursuant to section 402 (relating to State Board of
7 Cemetery Relief Directors).

8 "Department." The Department of State of the Commonwealth
9 acting through the State Real Estate Commission.

10 "Fund." The Cemetery Relief Fund established pursuant to
11 section 404 (relating to Cemetery Relief Fund).

12 § 402. State Board of Cemetery Relief Directors.

13 (a) Establishment.--The State Board of Cemetery Relief
14 Directors is hereby established within the Department of State.

15 (b) Powers and duties.--The board shall have the power and
16 duty to do all of the following:

17 (1) Review applications.

18 (2) Make determinations as to the purpose and amount of
19 any award granted to a cemetery under this chapter.

20 (3) Provide advice to the State Treasurer to administer
21 the fund.

22 (c) Membership.--The board shall consist of the following
23 members:

24 (1) Three members appointed by the Governor.

25 (2) One member appointed by the President pro tempore of
26 the Senate.

27 (3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of
28 Representatives.

29 (d) Compensation.--Members of the board shall receive no
30 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for

1 their necessary expenses incurred while serving as board
2 members.

3 (e) Vacancies.--A vacancy on the board shall be filled by
4 the appointing authority for the balance of the term.

5 (f) Terms of members.--Members of the board shall serve
6 terms of three years and until a successor is appointed and
7 qualified, except that the terms of the initial five
8 appointments shall be staggered with two members' terms expiring
9 two years after their initial appointments. Any member of the
10 board may be removed by the department for malfeasance in
11 office, failure to attend regularly scheduled meetings or any
12 cause that renders the member incapable of or unfit to discharge
13 his duties.

14 (g) Quorum.--Three members shall constitute a quorum for the
15 purpose of conducting the business of the board and for all
16 other purposes. All actions of the board shall be taken by a
17 majority of the members, and in no event fewer than three
18 members.

19 (h) Meetings.--Meetings of the board shall be held monthly
20 and shall be subject to 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open
21 meetings) and the act of June 21, 1957 (P.L.390, No.212),
22 referred to as the Right-to-Know Law.

23 § 403. Cemetery relief.

24 The board of county commissioners in any county may, upon
25 receiving a request from a cemetery, file an application with
26 the board for the purpose of obtaining an award under this
27 chapter for restoration or refurbishment of the cemetery.

28 § 404. Cemetery Relief Fund.

29 (a) Establishment.--The Cemetery Relief Fund is established
30 as a separate account in the State Treasury. The fund shall be

1 administered by the State Treasurer with the advice of the
2 board. All interest earned from the investment or deposit of
3 moneys accumulated in the fund shall be deposited in the fund
4 for the same use.

5 (b) Funds.--All moneys deposited into the fund shall be held
6 in trust and shall not be considered general revenue of the
7 Commonwealth but shall be used only to effectuate the purposes
8 of this chapter as determined by the board.

9 (c) Receipts and other credits.--The following shall be paid
10 or credited to the fund:

11 (1) Amounts appropriated to the fund in the manner
12 provided by law.

13 (2) The following surcharges which are hereby imposed:

14 (i) A surcharge of \$1.00 on any birth certificate
15 issued by the Department of Health, except that no
16 surcharge shall be added to a birth certificate which is
17 issued without a fee.

18 (ii) A surcharge of \$1.00 on any death certificate
19 issued by a local registrar or the Department of Health,
20 except that no surcharge shall be added to a death
21 certificate which is issued without a fee.

22 (d) Collection of surcharges.--Surcharges collected under
23 subsection (c)(2) shall be remitted by the Department of Health
24 or the local registrar on a monthly basis to the State
25 Treasurer.

26 (e) Expenditures.--Moneys in the fund may be expended by the
27 board to implement this chapter.

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