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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE BILL

## No. 1783

Session of  
1979

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INTRODUCED BY REED, CIMINI, JONES, PUCCIARELLI, RITTER AND  
MANMILLER, SEPTEMBER 26, 1979

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, SEPTEMBER 27, 1979

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the Tricentennial Commission of Pennsylvania,  
2 providing for the powers and duties of the commission, and  
3 making an appropriation.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
8 "Tricentennial Commission Act."

9 Section 2. Legislative findings; declaration of policy.

10 It is hereby determined and declared as a matter of  
11 legislative finding:

12 (1) The tricentennial of the founding of the  
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania occurs in 1981.

14 (2) No other state has furnished as many leaders or  
15 played as dominant a role in the development of our national  
16 heritage, individual liberty and representative government.

17 (3) Pennsylvania, birthplace of our liberty, should take  
18 steps to encourage historical preservation and restoration,

1 the recreation of events and remembrances of our historic  
2 beginning, and the promotion of international and national  
3 tourism designed to highlight the heritage and contributions  
4 of Pennsylvania to the Nation.

5 Section 3. Establishment of commission; membership; vacancies.

6 (a) There is hereby established the Tricentennial Commission  
7 of Pennsylvania, hereafter referred to as the commission, to  
8 plan and develop Pennsylvania's participation in the  
9 commemoration of the founding of this Commonwealth.

10 (b) The commission shall be composed of the following:

11 (1) Five members of the State Senate to be appointed by  
12 the President pro tempore of the Senate.

13 (2) Five members of the House Representatives to be  
14 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

15 (3) The Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of Commerce,  
16 Secretary of Environmental Resources, the Chairman of the  
17 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and the  
18 Secretary of the Commonwealth.

19 (4) Ten persons to be appointed by the Governor.

20 (c) The Governor of Pennsylvania shall be Honorary Chairman  
21 of the commission and shall designate from among the members  
22 thereof the chairman of the commission.

23 (d) Vacancies in the commission shall be filled in the same  
24 manner in which the original appointments were made.

25 Section 4. Duties of commission.

26 The duties of the commission shall include the following:

27 (1) To develop an effective observance by this  
28 Commonwealth of the tricentennial.

29 (2) To plan effective tricentennial programs for  
30 Pennsylvania and for its historic cities and regions,

1 coordinating such plans with programs which may be developed  
2 by local governments or other recognized organizations.

3 (3) To undertake a feasibility study to institute a  
4 program of designating historic preservation and restoration  
5 districts in the municipalities in which restoration and  
6 preservation activities are undertaken.

7 Section 5. Meetings and hearings.

8 The commission shall establish a regular schedule of meetings  
9 at its first session, which will be on the call of its chairman  
10 as soon as possible after the members have been appointed. The  
11 commission shall hold such public hearings as may be necessary  
12 to encourage citizens of Pennsylvania to offer their  
13 recommendations regarding the tricentennial.

14 Section 6. Reports.

15 The commission shall submit each year a report to the  
16 Governor and to the General Assembly covering its activities and  
17 offering its recommendations. A final report on all phases of  
18 its activities shall be submitted the year following the  
19 completion of Pennsylvania's Tricentennial observances.

20 Section 7. Assistance from the Department of Commerce.

21 The Department of Commerce shall provide such secretarial and  
22 other staff assistance as may be necessary to the proper  
23 functioning of the commission consistent with the laws of the  
24 Commonwealth.

25 Section 8. Finances and contributions.

26 Funds which may be appropriated by the General Assembly from  
27 time to time to assist in financing the tricentennial shall be  
28 appropriated to the Department of Commerce. That department  
29 shall secure the advice of the commission in preparing requests  
30 for such appropriations and in their expenditure.

1 Section 9. Appropriations.

2       There is hereby appropriated to the Department of Commerce,  
3 to assist the work of the commission, the sum of \$25,000 for the  
4 fiscal year July 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980. In addition to this  
5 amount, all moneys received from any other sources as  
6 contributions to this program shall be paid into the General  
7 Fund and credited to this appropriation.

8 Section 10. Effective date.

9       This act shall take effect in 60 days.