
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1386 Session of
1998

INTRODUCED BY KUKOVICH, PUNT, LAVALLE, AFFLERBACH, BELAN, BELL,
COSTA, HART, MELLOW, MUSTO, O'PAKE, RHOADES, SCHWARTZ,
STAPLETON, STOUT, TARTAGLIONE AND WILLIAMS, MARCH 24, 1998

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MARCH 24, 1998

AN ACT

1 Providing for a program to promote economic development in
2 downtown areas; establishing the Discover Pennsylvania's
3 Downtowns program; further providing for duties of the
4 Department of Community and Economic Development; and making
5 an appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Discover
10 Pennsylvania's Downtowns Act.

11 Section 2. Legislative findings and declaration.

12 The General Assembly finds and declares that downtown areas
13 throughout Pennsylvania offer unique cultural, business and
14 historic attractions. Each county should be afforded the
15 opportunity to market and promote a downtown area and to
16 highlight the area's attractions. Improving the infrastructure
17 and encouraging economic development in downtown areas could
18 decrease crime, reduce unemployment and stabilize shrinking tax
19 bases. It is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to

1 facilitate the revitalization of downtown areas within our
2 communities.

3 Section 3. Definitions.

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

7 "Applicant." The mayor for first class counties. The county
8 commissioners for all other counties.

9 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
10 Development of the Commonwealth.

11 "Downtown area." The central business district of a city,
12 borough or township which has traditionally served as a retail,
13 service, cultural and communal focal point within a community of
14 this Commonwealth.

15 Section 4. Establishment of program.

16 There is hereby established within the department the
17 Discover Pennsylvania's Downtowns program for the purpose of
18 making available to each county the opportunity to market and
19 promote a downtown area.

20 Section 5. Powers and duties.

21 The department shall develop written guidelines and
22 promulgate regulations necessary to implement the Discover
23 Pennsylvania's Downtowns program. These guidelines and
24 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, a formal
25 notification procedure designed to advise each applicant how to
26 apply for funds. The regulations shall also include a \$100,000
27 maximum per county per fiscal year.

28 Section 6. Appropriation.

29 The sum of \$6,750,000, or as much thereof as may be
30 necessary, is appropriated to the Department of Community and

1 Economic Development for the Discover Pennsylvania's Downtowns
2 program.
3 Section 7. Effective date.
4 This act shall take effect immediately.