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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1635 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY STERN, KIRKLAND, V. BROWN, KOTIK, FLECK,  
R. MILLER, ROZZI, KILLION, DAVIDSON, GODSHALL, KAUFFMAN,  
PAYNE, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MILLARD, HALUSKA, WATSON,  
SCHREIBER, COHEN, MOUL, QUINN, DEASY, D. COSTA, M. DALEY,  
DENLINGER AND MURT, AUGUST 6, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
AUGUST 6, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Providing for dedication of portion of sales and use tax; and  
2 establishing the Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Tourism,  
7 Museum and Arts Funding Act.

8 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) Tourism is an important part of Pennsylvania's  
11 economy, with visitors spending billions of dollars a year  
12 and supporting thousands of jobs at hotels, restaurants,  
13 museums, arts and cultural organizations and recreational,  
14 historical and outdoor attractions.

15 (2) State government, working in partnership with local  
16 tourism agencies, museums and arts and cultural agencies, has

1 a responsibility to promote and market this Commonwealth to  
2 out-of-State leisure and business travelers.

3 (3) A dedicated source of revenue for tourism marketing  
4 and promotion and for grants to museums and the arts will  
5 enable the Commonwealth to promote economic development,  
6 support our many museums and foster the diversity and  
7 strength of arts and culture in communities throughout this  
8 Commonwealth.

9 Section 3. Definitions.

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

13 "Destination marketing organization." A nonprofit  
14 corporation, organization, association or agency that is engaged  
15 in tourism promotion or marketing on a regional or Statewide  
16 basis to attract leisure or business travelers to this  
17 Commonwealth.

18 "Fund." The Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund established  
19 by this act.

20 "Official tourism promotion and marketing agency of the  
21 Commonwealth." The nonprofit corporation, organization,  
22 association or State agency established by law or designated by  
23 the Department of Community and Economic Development as the  
24 official tourism promotion and marketing agency of the  
25 Commonwealth.

26 "Tourism promotion agency." A recognized nonprofit  
27 corporation, organization, association or agency that is engaged  
28 in planning and promoting programs designed to stimulate and  
29 increase the volume of tourist, visitor and vacation business  
30 within counties served by the agency as that term is defined in

1 the act of July 4, 2008 (P.L.621, No.50), known as the Tourism  
2 Promotion Act.

3 Section 4. Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund.

4 (a) Establishment.--The Tourism, Museum and Arts Trust Fund  
5 is established in the State Treasury.

6 (b) Deposits.--The revenue collected under section 5 shall  
7 be deposited into the fund within 60 days of collection.

8 (c) Use of revenues.--The money in the fund is hereby  
9 appropriated on a continuing basis to the fund and shall not  
10 lapse. Except as provided in subsection (d), payments from the  
11 fund shall be made upon warrant of the State Treasurer after  
12 receipt of a requisition from the appropriate agency under this  
13 act.

14 (d) Initial distribution of funds.--No funds shall be  
15 distributed under section 5 prior to July 1, 2014.

16 Section 5. Funding for tourism, museums and arts.

17 (a) Source of funding.--The revenue from 1% of the tax  
18 levied under Article II of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6,  
19 No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, shall be deposited  
20 into the fund for use as provided by this act.

21 (b) Allocation of funds.--The moneys of the fund shall be  
22 allocated as follows:

23 (1) Sixty percent of the revenue shall be used by the  
24 official tourism promotion and marketing agency of the  
25 Commonwealth for tourism marketing, promotion and development  
26 activities to attract leisure and business travelers to this  
27 Commonwealth and for matching grants to destination marketing  
28 organizations and tourism promotion agencies.

29 (2) Twenty percent of the revenue shall be used by the  
30 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for museum

1 assistance grants.

2 (3) Twenty percent of the revenue shall be used by the  
3 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for grants to the arts.

4 Section 6. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect in 60 days.