

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. Senate Bill 775

PRINTER NO. 1282

AMOUNT

No Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

June 16, 2017

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Browne

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 775 establishes the Pennsylvania Museum Preservation Act requiring the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to establish a program for eligible museums.

Defines "eligible museum" as a museum that has committed to the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Pledge of Excellence and is in one of the following categories: (1) botanic garden or arboretum; (2) children's museum; (3) a general museum with two or more equally significant disciplines; (4) history museum; (5) historical society; (6) historic house or site; (7) military or maritime museum; (8) natural history museum; (9) nature center; (10) planetarium; (11) science and technology center; and, (12) multipurpose organization.

Provides that an eligible museum with an operating budget of more than \$100,000 may apply for a grant equal to 15% of its operating budget. An eligible museum with AAM accreditation may receive an additional grant of up to 1% of its operating budget. Grants may not exceed \$500,000 in total.

Establishes the Pennsylvania Museum Preservation Fund as a special fund within the State Treasury and provides for monies deposited in the fund to be used by the PHMC for the grant program.

Requires the PHMC to annually publish on its publically accessible Internet website any project which received funding as a redevelopment assistance capital project as defined in the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enactment of Senate Bill 775 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth Funds.

Funding for the grant program established in the legislation will be dependent on the appropriation or transfer of funds by the General Assembly.

The administrative responsibilities delegated to the PHMC to administer the grant program and post information on its publically accessibly Internet website are routine and can be accomplished within its existing operating budget.