
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1470 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, COX, DRISCOLL, JAMES, MENTZER, MURT,
SACCONE, SOLOMON, QUIGLEY AND GILLEN, MAY 31, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MAY 31, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled,
2 as amended, "An act relating to counties of the first, third,
3 fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending,
4 revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating
5 thereto; relating to imposition of excise taxes by counties,
6 including authorizing imposition of an excise tax on the
7 rental of motor vehicles by counties of the first class; and
8 providing for regional renaissance initiatives," in special
9 powers and duties of counties, further providing for flags to
10 decorate graves.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 1922 of the act of August 9, 1955
14 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, is amended to read:

15 Section 1922. Flags to Decorate Graves.--(a) It shall be
16 the duty of the county commissioners to provide flags on each
17 Memorial Day with which to decorate the graves of all deceased
18 service persons and the graves of all other deceased persons who
19 served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard,
20 Merchant Marine during World War II or any organization
21 officially connected therewith and whose separation from such

1 service was honorable, whether by discharge or otherwise, buried
2 within the county. The flags shall be provided in accordance
3 with the following:

4 (1) The flags to be used for such purposes shall be of one
5 standard size, colorfast and American made, and shall be
6 purchased at the expense of the county from moneys in the county
7 treasury.

8 (2) The authorities in charge of any cemetery are authorized
9 to remove such flags, when the same become unsightly or
10 weatherworn, at any time not less than thirty days after the
11 flags have been placed on graves along with notification to a
12 county director of veterans' affairs for a replacement flag.

13 (3) A family member of a person whose grave is decorated
14 with a flag by the county for the purpose of Memorial Day is
15 granted permission to take and keep the flag after the first
16 working day after Independence Day. A cemetery shall contact the
17 county no less than thirty days after taking down the flags
18 annually for collection by the county.

19 (4) In addition to the powers and duties granted to local
20 code enforcement officers, a local code enforcement officer may
21 inspect local cemeteries for violations of this section and
22 report any violation to a county director of veterans' affairs.

23 (5) Counties may coordinate with local veterans service
24 organizations to ensure that cemeteries are in compliance with
25 the provisions of this section.

26 (b) Such flags shall be furnished to the various veterans'
27 organizations in such numbers as they shall require for their
28 respective communities.

29 (c) The moneys expended by any county under the provisions
30 of this section shall be in addition to moneys appropriated by

1 counties for Memorial Day purposes.

2 [(d) The authorities in charge of any cemetery are
3 authorized to remove such flags when the same become unsightly
4 or weatherworn at any time not before the first working day
5 after Independence Day of each year.]

6 (e) [Any] Except as otherwise provided in this section, any
7 authority or person in charge of any cemetery who shall remove
8 or cause the removal of the flags prior to the first working day
9 after Independence Day shall be guilty of a summary offense and,
10 upon conviction thereof, shall be sentenced to pay a fine in the
11 amount of three hundred dollars (\$300) and, upon failure to pay
12 such fine, to undergo imprisonment not to exceed ninety days.

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