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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 718 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, COSTA, KILLION, HUGHES, MENSCH, SCHWANK,  
LANGERHOLC, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, FARNESE, BLAKE, BREWSTER,  
YUDICHAK, BAKER, TARTAGLIONE AND DINNIMAN, JUNE 5, 2019

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 5, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Providing for museum preservation and for grant program;  
2 imposing duties on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
3 Commission; establishing the Pennsylvania Museum Preservation  
4 Fund; and making an appropriation.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
9 Museum Preservation Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "AAM." The American Alliance of Museums.

15 "Accredited museum." A museum that has been accredited by  
16 the AAM.

17 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
18 Commission.

1 "Core documents." A mission statement, code of ethics,  
2 strategic plan, disaster or emergency plan or collections  
3 management policy.

4 "Eligible museum." A museum meeting the criteria for grants  
5 under section 3.

6 "Fund." The Pennsylvania Museum Preservation Fund  
7 established under section 4.

8 Section 3. Grant program.

9 (a) Establishment.--The commission shall establish a program  
10 to receive applications and award grants to eligible museums in  
11 accordance with this act.

12 (b) Guidelines.--The commission shall establish guidelines  
13 that are consistent with the provisions of this act within 120  
14 days of the effective date of this section. The guidelines shall  
15 be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and posted on the  
16 commission's publicly accessible Internet website.

17 (c) Program requirements.--

18 (1) An eligible museum is a museum in one of the  
19 following categories:

20 (i) Botanic garden or arboretum.

21 (ii) Children's museum.

22 (iii) A general museum with two or more equally  
23 significant disciplines.

24 (iv) History museum.

25 (v) Historical society.

26 (vi) Historic house or site.

27 (vii) Military or maritime museum.

28 (viii) Natural history museum.

29 (ix) Nature center.

30 (x) Planetarium.

1 (xi) Science and technology center.

2 (xii) Multipurpose organization. An individual  
3 museum within a multipurpose government or tax-exempt  
4 organization may apply for a grant if the museum  
5 functions as a discrete unit with the parent  
6 organization. A museum that is part of a larger  
7 organization must be deemed eligible if the museum:

8 (A) has administrative autonomy for its  
9 operations;

10 (B) has a fully segregated and itemized  
11 operating budget with the parent organization;

12 (C) may separately and distinctly fulfill the  
13 eligibility and application requirements as defined  
14 in the guidelines established under subsection (b);  
15 and

16 (D) meets the AAM definition of a museum.

17 (2) Eligible museums must also meet the following  
18 standards:

19 (i) Funds may only be distributed by the commission  
20 to eligible museums that commit to the AAM Pledge of  
21 Excellence.

22 (ii) The requirement under subparagraph (i) must be  
23 evidenced by the completion of core document verification  
24 with the AAM within two years of the effective date of  
25 this section.

26 (d) Grant limits.--The commission may award grants to an  
27 eligible museum that meets the criteria of this section. The  
28 grants may not exceed the following amounts:

29 (1) An eligible museum with an operating budget of more  
30 than \$100,000 may apply for grants equal to 15% of its

1 operating budget.

2 (2) A museum with AAM accreditation may receive an  
3 additional grant of up to 1% of its operating budget.

4 (3) Grants, including additional grants under paragraph  
5 (2), may not exceed \$500,000 in total for an eligible museum.

6 Section 4. Pennsylvania Museum Preservation Fund.

7 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Museum Preservation  
8 Fund is established in the State Treasury as a special fund. The  
9 fund shall consist of money appropriated or transferred to the  
10 fund by act of the General Assembly.

11 (b) Appropriation.--Money in the fund is appropriated to the  
12 commission for the purposes authorized under this act.

13 Section 5. Publication.

14 The commission shall publish annually on the commission's  
15 publicly accessible Internet website any eligible museum which  
16 received funding as a redevelopment assistance capital project  
17 as defined in section 302 of the act of February 9, 1999 (P.L.1,  
18 No.1), known as the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act.

19 Section 6. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect in 60 days.