
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 970 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY REED, ARGALL, CAPPELLI, COLEMAN, CRAHALLA,
CREIGHTON, DAILEY, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HORSEY,
HUTCHINSON, MANN, McCALL, RUBLEY, SAYLOR, STERN,
E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WALKO, WASHINGTON AND YOUNGBLOOD,
MARCH 25, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, MARCH 25, 2003

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 22, 2000 (P.L.318, No.32), entitled "An
2 act encouraging State agencies to locate facilities in a
3 downtown area; and providing for report to General Assembly,"
4 further providing for definitions.

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

7 Section 1. Section 3 of the act of June 22, 2000 (P.L.318,
8 No.32), known as the Downtown Location Law, is amended to read:

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 "Department." The Department of General Services of the
14 Commonwealth.

15 "Downtown area." [Either of the following:

16 (1) The central business district of a city, other than
17 a city of the first class, borough, incorporated town or

1 township or any commercial area within a neighborhood of a
2 city, borough, incorporated town or township, in every case
3 that serves as a commercial center within that community of
4 this Commonwealth.

5 (2) In cities of the first class, the entire geographic
6 area of the city.]

7 A geographically identifiable and contiguous business district
8 within a town, city, village within a township, home rule
9 municipality or borough, with a recognized sense of place and a
10 distinct and identifiable pedestrian orientation based upon a
11 rectilinear street grid pattern of development, with one or more
12 central streets and intersecting cross streets. The business
13 district shall have historically served as the center of
14 economic, social and civic activity within the community since
15 at least 1939, or, in the case of a municipality with multiple
16 business districts, each business district shall have served as
17 the center of economic, social and civic activity within a
18 neighborhood.

19 "Pedestrian orientation." Development designed with an
20 emphasis on a street sidewalk and on pedestrian access to a site
21 and building rather than on automobile access and parking areas,
22 where:

23 (1) The building is generally placed close to the street
24 and the main entrance is oriented to the street sidewalk.

25 (2) There are generally windows or display cases along
26 building facades that face the street.

27 (3) The building covers a large portion of the
28 individual lot area.

29 (4) Although parking areas may be provided, they are
30 generally limited in size and are not emphasized by the

1 design of the site.

2 "Rectilinear street grid pattern." A street and block system
3 characterized by relatively regularly spaced, rectangular or
4 trapezoidal blocks and four-way intersections.

5 "Secretary." The Secretary of General Services of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Sense of place." The characteristics of a location that
8 make it readily recognizable as being unique and different from
9 its surroundings, including, but not limited to, publicly owned
10 squares, village commons, open space, gazebos, plazas,
11 courtyards and historic main streets.

12 "State agency." An executive agency or independent agency as
13 those terms are defined in 62 Pa.C.S. § 103 (relating to
14 definitions).

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