
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 170 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, COSTA, ALLOWAY, HUGHES, ARGALL, BAKER,
FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, HAYWOOD, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, FARNESE,
BREWSTER, WOZNIAK, YUDICHAK, VOGEL, WILLIAMS, DINNIMAN,
TARTAGLIONE, McILHINNEY AND MCGARRIGLE, OCTOBER 7, 2015

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 7, 2015

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 American Alliance of Museums.

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
11 pursuant to 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 Internet website of the commission.

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. Fund.

7 (a) Establishment.--There is established in the State
8 Treasury a special fund to be known as the Pennsylvania Museum
9 Preservation Fund.

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

12 (c) Transfer.--The Commonwealth shall transfer 1.5% of the
13 funds collected by the inheritance tax under Article XXI of the
14 act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code
15 of 1971, from the General Fund into the fund.

16 Section 5. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect in 60 days.