

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 247 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY SAINATO, BARRAR, MURT, JAMES, MATZIE, BOBACK,  
LONGIETTI, BARBIN, MILLARD, THOMAS, READSHAW, McNEILL AND  
DEASY, JANUARY 31, 2017

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

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 75 (Vehicles) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military  
3 and Veterans Affairs, further providing for Pennsylvania  
4 Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund; in State Veterans' Commission  
5 and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further  
6 providing for Veterans' Trust Fund; in Pennsylvania Veterans'  
7 Memorial Commission, repealing provisions relating to the  
8 Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund and to expiration;  
9 and, in registration of vehicles, further providing for  
10 Pennsylvania monument registration plate.

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

13 Section 1. Section 710 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania  
14 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

15 § 710. Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust  
16 Fund.

17 (a) [~~Administration.--~~] Establishment and administration.--  
18 There is established a separate fund in the State Treasury to be  
19 known as the Pennsylvania Veterans' Monuments and Memorial Trust  
20 Fund. The [separate fund in the State Treasury known as the  
21 Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund] fund shall be

1 administered by the [State Veterans' Commission] department, and  
2 all moneys in the fund are appropriated to the [State Veterans'  
3 Commission] department on a continuing basis[.] for the purposes  
4 provided for under subsection (b). The State Veterans'  
5 Commission shall assist the department in accordance with  
6 section 1704(1) (relating to specific powers and duties).

7 (b) Purpose.--The moneys in the fund shall be used for the  
8 promotion, administration, operation [and], maintenance and  
9 completion of the [Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial on the  
10 grounds of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery] monuments and  
11 memorials dedicated to Pennsylvania veterans and military units  
12 and other costs incidental thereto as approved by the  
13 department. [Moneys in the fund may be used to pay any  
14 construction costs which have not been paid on the effective  
15 date of this section.]

16 (c) Contributions and solicitation of funds.--

17 (1) The [State Veterans' Commission] department is  
18 authorized:

19 (i) To accept, on behalf of the Commonwealth, gifts,  
20 donations, legacies and usages of money from individuals,  
21 organizations, public or private corporations and other  
22 similar entities.

23 (ii) To solicit and raise moneys from public and  
24 private sources.

25 (2) All money received or raised under this subsection  
26 shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the  
27 fund.

28 (3) The department may use up to 2% of the available  
29 funds as of October 31 of each calendar year to administer  
30 the fund in accordance with this section.

1 (d) Operation and maintenance.--Money must be granted for  
2 the operation and maintenance of monuments as designated by the  
3 department in consultation with the State Veterans' Commission.  
4 At a minimum, the following monuments will receive funding, as  
5 needed, for operation and maintenance:

6 (1) The Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial on the grounds  
7 of the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

8 (2) American battle monuments located overseas  
9 officially owned or recognized by the Commonwealth.

10 (3) Pennsylvania unit monuments and markers within the  
11 Gettysburg National Military Park.

12 (4) Other Pennsylvania military memorials and monuments  
13 as designated or recognized by the department.

14 Section 2. Section 1721(c)(5) of Title 51, amended October  
15 4, 2016 (P.L.882, No.109), is amended to read:

16 § 1721. Veterans' Trust Fund.

17 \* \* \*

18 (c) Authorized purposes.--The department may expend money  
19 from the Veterans' Trust Fund for the following purposes:

20 \* \* \*

21 [(5) Assistance to operate, maintain and repair  
22 Pennsylvania monuments honoring Pennsylvania service members  
23 and veterans who served in the United States or overseas.]

24 \* \* \*

25 Section 3. Sections 1905 and 1906 of Title 51 are repealed:  
26 [§ 1905. Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund.

27 (a) Establishment and administration.--There is hereby  
28 established a separate fund in the State Treasury to be known as  
29 the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund. The fund shall  
30 be administered by the commission, and all moneys in the fund

1 are appropriated to the commission on a continuing basis.

2 (b) Purpose.--The moneys in the fund shall be used for the  
3 selection, design, construction, operation and maintenance of an  
4 appropriate physical monument on the grounds of the Indiantown  
5 Gap National Cemetery and other costs incidental thereto.

6 (c) Contributions and solicitation of funds.--

7 (1) The commission is authorized:

8 (i) To accept, on behalf of the Commonwealth, gifts,  
9 donations, legacies and usages of money from individuals,  
10 organizations, public or private corporations and other  
11 similar entities.

12 (ii) To solicit and raise moneys from public and  
13 private sources.

14 (2) All money received or raised under this subsection  
15 shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the  
16 fund.

17 § 1906. Expiration.

18 Sections 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904 of this chapter shall  
19 expire June 30, 2005.]

20 Section 4. Section 1353.1(c) and (d) of Title 75 are amended  
21 to read:

22 § 1353.1. Pennsylvania monument registration plate.

23 \* \* \*

24 (c) Proceeds.--The [Veterans' Trust] Pennsylvania Veterans'  
25 Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund shall receive \$23 of the fee  
26 paid by the applicant for the registration plate under  
27 subsection (a).

28 (d) Use of proceeds.--Proceeds under subsection (c) shall be  
29 used exclusively to provide grants to nonprofit organizations  
30 for the cleaning, repair and restoration of Pennsylvania

1 monuments and memorials by the Gettysburg National Military  
2 Park. A grant under this subsection may not be used to pay for  
3 the cost of cleaning, repair or restoration of the grounds  
4 surrounding a Pennsylvania monument or memorial.

5 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.