
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 775 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, COSTA, AUMENT, BAKER, YUDICHAK AND HUGHES,
JUNE 16, 2017

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 16, 2017

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.

19 "Core documents." A mission statement, code of ethics,

1 strategic plan, disaster or emergency plan or collections
2 management policy.

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

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

7 Section 3. Grant program.

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

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

16 (c) Program requirements.--

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

19 (i) Botanic garden or arboretum.

20 (ii) Children's museum.

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

23 (iv) History museum.

24 (v) Historical society.

25 (vi) Historic house or site.

26 (vii) Military or maritime museum.

27 (viii) Natural history museum.

28 (ix) Nature center.

29 (x) Planetarium.

30 (xi) Science and technology center.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 Section 4. Pennsylvania Museum Preservation Fund.

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

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

12 Section 5. Publication.

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

18 Section 6. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 60 days.