
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2764 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY JAMES, ARMANINI, FREEMAN, GUENST, HENNESSEY,
PICKETT, MENTZER AND ZIMMERMAN, AUGUST 9, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
AUGUST 9, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 32 (Forests, Waters and State Parks) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for heritage
3 areas; and making a related repeal.

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

6 Section 1. Title 32 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a part to read:

8 PART V

9 CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

10 Subpart

11 A. Preliminary Provisions

12 B. (Reserved)

13 C. (Reserved)

14 D. Other Parks

15 SUBPART A

16 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

17 Chapter

18 101. (Reserved)

1 CHAPTER 101
2 (Reserved)
3 SUBPART B
4 (Reserved)
5 SUBPART C
6 (Reserved)
7 SUBPART D
8 OTHER PARKS

9 Chapter

10 153. Heritage Areas

11 CHAPTER 153

12 HERITAGE AREAS

13 Sec.

14 15301. Scope of chapter.

15 15302. Definitions.

16 15303. Heritage Area Program.

17 15304. Designation of heritage areas.

18 15305. Administration of program.

19 15306. Program funding.

20 § 15301. Scope of chapter.

21 This chapter relates to the Heritage Area Program.

22 § 15302. Definitions.

23 "Department." The Department of Conservation and Natural
24 Resources of the Commonwealth.

25 "Heritage area." A region of the Commonwealth designated
26 under section 15304(a) (relating to designation of heritage
27 areas) which is managed by an entity identified under section
28 15304(b).

29 "Program." The Heritage Area Program established under
30 section 15303 (relating to Heritage Area Program).

1 "Secretary." The Secretary of Conservation and Natural
2 Resources of the Commonwealth.

3 § 15303. Heritage Area Program.

4 The Heritage Area Program is continued as a program within
5 the department to identify, protect, develop, enhance and
6 promote the historical, recreational, natural, cultural and
7 scenic resources of this Commonwealth and to stimulate community
8 revitalization and economic development through regional
9 heritage conservation, recreation, tourism and partnerships.

10 § 15304. Designation of heritage areas.

11 (a) Regions.--The department shall designate regions in this
12 Commonwealth with nationally significant and Commonwealth-
13 significant landscapes and historical, cultural, natural and
14 recreational resources to be heritage areas.

15 (b) Management of heritage areas.--Upon the designation of a
16 region under subsection (a), the department shall identify a
17 nonprofit organization or governmental entity to develop,
18 protect, interpret and promote the heritage area's historical,
19 cultural, natural and recreational resources to stimulate
20 economic and community development.

21 § 15305. Administration of program.

22 (a) Guidelines and policies.--The department shall adopt
23 program guidelines and policies for the implementation and
24 administration of the program.

25 (b) Consultation.--The department shall consult with the
26 heritage areas on an annual basis to discuss program goals,
27 guidelines and policies.

28 § 15306. Program funding.

29 (a) Allocation of funding.--The department shall, under
30 subsection (d), allocate funds appropriated to the department to

1 the program for the following purposes:

2 (1) Management, administration, operation and marketing
3 of heritage areas.

4 (2) Planning, implementation, technical assistance and
5 educational projects and programs related to heritage areas.

6 (3) Development, construction, rehabilitation, repair,
7 acquisition, preservation and enhancement of lands, buildings
8 and other structures related to heritage areas.

9 (4) Protection, documentation, interpretation and
10 promotion of the cultural, natural, scenic, recreational and
11 historical resources of heritage areas.

12 (5) Establishment of partnerships and coalitions of
13 governmental and nongovernmental agencies and organizations
14 to assist heritage areas with the implementation of
15 management action plans.

16 (6) Any other activities deemed appropriate by the
17 department.

18 (b) Allocation of grants.--A heritage area may use the
19 funding allocated by the department for the program to provide a
20 grant to another entity and organization, including a county,
21 municipality, authority, nonprofit organization, other
22 authorized organization, private sector firm or business, if the
23 purpose of the grant meets the requirements of subsection (a).

24 (c) Eligibility for other funding.--In addition to any other
25 funding provided to a heritage area, a heritage area shall be
26 eligible to apply for a grant and loan program administered by
27 the department or other Federal or State agency or entity.

28 (d) Process for distribution.--

29 (1) The department shall distribute funds to the program
30 based on established program goals, guidelines and policies.

1 (2) The department shall allocate all funds appropriated
2 annually for the program and each State-designated heritage
3 area shall receive a minimum amount established by the
4 program goals, guidelines and policies.

5 (e) Administrative use.--The department may use no more than
6 5% of the funding appropriated annually for the program for
7 administrative expenses, including the development of a
8 strategic plan or other appropriate initiative related to the
9 administration of the program.

10 Section 2. Repeals are as follows:

11 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeal under
12 paragraph (2) is necessary to effectuate the addition of 32
13 Pa.C.S. Ch. 153.

14 (2) Article XVI-J of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343,
15 No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, is repealed.

16 Section 3. The addition of 32 Pa.C.S. Ch. 153 is a
17 continuation of Article XVI-J of the act of April 9, 1929
18 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code. The following
19 apply:

20 (1) Except as otherwise provided in 32 Pa.C.S. Ch. 153,
21 all activities initiated under the Article XVI-J of The
22 Fiscal Code shall continue and remain in full force and
23 effect and may be completed under 32 Pa.C.S. Ch. 153. Orders,
24 regulations, rules and decisions which were made under
25 Article XVI-J of The Fiscal Code and which are in effect on
26 the effective date of this section shall remain in full force
27 and effect until revoked, vacated or modified under 32
28 Pa.C.S. Ch. 153. Contracts, obligations and collective
29 bargaining agreements entered into under Article XVI-J of The
30 Fiscal Code are not affected nor impaired by the repeal of

1 Article XVI-J of The Fiscal Code.

2 (2) Any difference in language between 32 Pa.C.S. Ch.
3 153 and Article XVI-J of The Fiscal Code is intended only to
4 conform to the style of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
5 Statutes and is not intended to change or affect the
6 legislative intent, judicial construction or administration
7 and implementation of Article XVI-J of The Fiscal Code.

8 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.