
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1185 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY SIEGEL, BRENNAN, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS,
WAXMAN, PIELLI, T. DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ AND
KHAN, MAY 18, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MAY 18, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in economic development programs,
3 establishing the Pedestrianization Grant Program and the
4 Pedestrianization Grant Fund; imposing duties on the
5 Department of Community and Economic Development; and making
6 an interfund transfer.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Title 12 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
10 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

11 CHAPTER 22

12 PEDESTRIANIZATION GRANTS

13 Sec.

14 2201. Definitions.

15 2202. Pedestrianization Grant Program.

16 2203. Pedestrianization Grant Fund.

17 2204. Reports.

18 2205. Rules and regulations.

19 § 2201. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
2 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
3 context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
5 Development of the Commonwealth.

6 "Fund." The Pedestrianization Grant Fund established under
7 section 2203 (relating to Pedestrianization Grant Fund).

8 "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town
9 or township.

10 "Program." The Pedestrianization Grant Program established
11 under section 2202 (relating to Pedestrianization Grant
12 Program).

13 § 2202. Pedestrianization Grant Program.

14 (a) Establishment.--The Pedestrianization Grant Program is
15 established as a competitive grant program within the
16 department.

17 (b) Eligible uses of grants.--The department shall determine
18 eligible uses of grants awarded under the program, including,
19 without limitation:

20 (1) Widening or improving sidewalks or other public
21 walkways.

22 (2) Enhancing pedestrian safety.

23 (3) Reducing obstructions for pedestrians.

24 (4) Reducing conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles.

25 (5) Adding or replacing signage.

26 (6) Adding or replacing lighting along sidewalks or
27 other public walkways.

28 (7) Landscaping.

29 (8) Adding benches or other outdoor furniture along
30 sidewalks or other public walkways.

1 (9) Creating alternative routes for vehicles or
2 otherwise restricting access to vehicle.

3 (10) Acquiring land for sidewalks and other public
4 walkways.

5 (c) Application generally.--The following apply to an
6 application for a grant under the program:

7 (1) A municipality may apply for a grant by submitting
8 an application to the department.

9 (2) The application shall include all of the following:

10 (i) The name, location and contact information of
11 the municipality seeking the grant.

12 (ii) A pedestrianization plan, which must include:

13 (A) The purpose or purposes for which the grant
14 is sought.

15 (B) The location of the proposed project or
16 projects within the boundaries of the municipality.

17 (C) The amount requested for the grant.

18 (iii) A plan to obtain local matching money, in an
19 amount equal to that requested in the application, for
20 the proposed purpose or purposes specified in the
21 application.

22 (iv) Any other information or documentation required
23 by the department.

24 (3) The application, including information relating to
25 the program and eligible uses of grant money, shall be posted
26 on the publicly accessible Internet website of the
27 department.

28 (4) The application must be submitted in the form and
29 manner prescribed by the department.

30 (d) Application and review process.--The following apply to

1 the application and review process for a grant under the
2 program:

3 (1) Beginning no later than 180 days after the effective
4 date of this paragraph, the department shall begin accepting
5 and processing applications on a rolling basis until the
6 program funding available for the fiscal year has been
7 exhausted.

8 (2) The department shall review applications and make
9 awards on a rolling basis.

10 (3) No later than 30 days after the receipt of an
11 application, the department shall approve or deny an
12 application, in whole or in part. The following apply:

13 (i) If the department fails to approve or deny an
14 application within 30 days after the receipt of the
15 application, the application shall be deemed denied.

16 (ii) If the department denies an application, in
17 whole or in part, the department shall provide the reason
18 for the denial to the municipality that submitted the
19 application.

20 (iii) The department may request additional
21 information or documentation regarding an application.

22 (4) A municipality may revise or resubmit a denied
23 application to the department.

24 (e) Limitations.--

25 (1) During a fiscal year, the department may not award
26 to a municipality more than \$100,000 in grant money.

27 (2) The department may not award grants in excess of the
28 amount in the fund.

29 (3) The department may prorate an approved grant to a
30 municipality.

1 (4) The department may only award a grant under the
2 program upon proof of the availability of local matching
3 money.

4 § 2203. Pedestrianization Grant Fund.

5 (a) Establishment.--The Pedestrianization Grant Fund is
6 established in the State Treasury.

7 (b) Appropriation.--All money deposited into the fund and
8 interest earned on the money in the fund are appropriated to the
9 department on a continuing basis to award grants under this
10 chapter.

11 (c) Transfer from General Fund.--In addition to money
12 appropriated to the department for the grant program, the sum of
13 \$5,000,000 is transferred from the General Fund to the fund.

14 (d) Administrative costs.--No more than 1% of the money in
15 the fund may be used for reasonable administrative costs of the
16 department in administering the grant program.

17 § 2204. Reports.

18 (a) Requirement generally.--At least once every three years
19 following the establishment of the program, the department shall
20 issue a report evaluating the use of the program money.

21 (b) Contents.--Each report under this section shall include
22 an analysis of:

23 (1) The total amount of grants awarded under the
24 program.

25 (2) Each municipality that received a grant under the
26 program, including the amount and purpose of the grant.

27 (3) Each municipality that was denied, in whole or in
28 part, a grant under the program, including the reason for the
29 denial.

30 (4) The efficacy of the pedestrianization efforts funded

1 through the program.

2 (c) Submittal.--Each report under this section shall be
3 submitted to:

4 (1) The Governor.

5 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
6 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

7 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
8 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

9 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
10 Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee of
11 the Senate.

12 (5) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
13 Housing and Community Development Committee of the House of
14 Representatives.

15 (d) Posting.--Each report under this section shall be posted
16 on the publicly accessible Internet website of the department.
17 § 2205. Rules and regulations.

18 The department shall adopt or promulgate any rules or
19 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this
20 chapter, including the development and submission of application
21 forms, the review of applications, the criteria for the use of
22 grants in accordance with this chapter and the award of grants
23 under the program.

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