
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. **268** Session of
1961

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. YATRON, SESLER, ROONEY,
SEYLER, DEVLIN, MAHADY, STASEY AND MULLIN,
FEBRUARY 21, 1961.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT,
FEBRUARY 21, 1961.

AN ACT

Providing for assistance to agencies promoting tourist travel and vacation business in Pennsylvania authorizing the Department of Commerce to make grants and provide assistance to properly designated tourist promotion agencies conferring powers and imposing duties on the governing bodies of certain political subdivisions

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter ~~stricken through~~ is to be omitted from bill.
Underscoring indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter ~~stricken from existing law.~~

1 Section 1 Short Title This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "Tourist Promotion Law"

3 Section 2 Declaration of Policy It is hereby determined and declared
4 as a matter of legislative finding

5 (1) That the health safety morals and general welfare of the people
6 of the Commonwealth are directly dependent upon the continual encour-
7 agement development growth and expansion of business industry and
8 commerce within the Commonwealth

9 (2) That unemployment the spread of indigency the heavy burden
10 of public assistance and unemployment compensation can best be avoided
11 by the promotion attraction stimulation development and expansion of
12 all business industry and commerce in the Commonwealth

13 Therefore it is declared to be the policy of the Commonwealth of
14 Pennsylvania to promote the health safety morals and general welfare
15 of its inhabitants through its Department of Commerce by means of
16 grants to be made to tourist promotion agencies which are or may be
17 engaged in planning and promoting programs designed to stimulate and
18 increase the volume of tourist visitor and vacation business within the
19 counties served by such agencies

1 Section 3 Definitions The term "governing bodies" shall mean as
2 to any county city borough town or township the body empowered to
3 enact ordinances or to adopt resolutions for the governance of such
4 county city borough town or township

5 The term "tourist promotion agency" shall mean any nonprofit
6 corporation organization association or agency which shall be designated
7 by ordinance in cities of the first class and by proper resolution of the
8 governing body of any county concurred in by resolution of the govern-
9 ing bodies of cities boroughs towns or townships within said county
10 having in the aggregate over fifty per centum of the population of said
11 county as determined by the last preceding decennial United States
12 Census as the agency authorized to make application to and receive
13 grants from the Department of Commerce of the Commonwealth for
14 the purposes specified in this act Any two or more counties may by the
15 procedures herein provided designate a single tourist promotion agency
16 to represent such counties for the purposes of this act

17 Section 4 Recognition of Tourist Promotion Agencies The Depart-
18 ment of Commerce upon receipt of certified copies of such ordinances or
19 resolutions as may be necessary to satisfy it that a tourist promotion

1 agency has been duly designated to act within a particular county or city
2 of the first class pursuant to section three of this act shall recognize
3 such tourist promotion agency as the sole such agency within such
4 county or city for the purposes of this act

5 Section 5 Applications for and Approval of Grants to Tourist
6 Promotion Agencies The Department of Commerce is hereby authorized
7 to make grants to recognized tourist promotion agencies to assist such
8 agencies in the financing of their operational costs for the purposes of
9 making studies surveys and investigations and in planning and carrying
10 out of their promotional programs and projects Provided That before
11 any such grant may be made

12 (1) The tourist promotion agency shall have made application to
13 the Department of Commerce for such grant and shall have therein set
14 forth the studies surveys and investigations proposed to be made and
15 the promotional program and projects proposed to be undertaken for
16 the purpose of encouraging and stimulating tourist visitor and vacation
17 business in the county or counties The application shall further state
18 under oath or affirmation with evidence thereof satisfactory to the depart-
19 ment the amount of funds held by or committed or subscribed to the
20 tourist promotion agency for application to the purposes herein described

1 and the amount of the grant for which application is made and

2 (2) The Department of Commerce after review of the application
3 if satisfied that the program of the tourist promotion agency appears
4 to be in accord with the purposes of this act shall authorize the making
5 of a matching grant to such tourist promotion agency equal to funds of
6 the agency allocated by it to the program described in its application
7 Provided however that such State grant shall not exceed an amount
8 equal to one-tenth of one dollar for each inhabitant of the city county
9 or counties represented by such agency as determined by the last pre-
10 ceding decennial United States Census or three dollars (\$3) per rentable
11 room as declared under the hotel occupancy tax as administered by the
12 Department of Revenue whichever be the higher provided however that
13 no tourist promotion agency shall be eligible for less than one thousand
14 dollars (\$1,000) nor more than twenty per centum of the appropriation
15 to the Department of Commerce for the purposes set forth in this act

16 Section 6 Payment of Grants to Tourist Promotion Agencies Upon
17 approval of each application and the making of a grant by the depart-
18 ment in accordance therewith the department shall give notice to the
19 particular tourist promotion agency of such approval and grant and
20 shall direct the tourist promotion agency to proceed with its proposed

1 promotional program as described in its application and to use therefor
2 funds allocated by the tourist promotion agency for such purpose Upon
3 the furnishing of satisfactory evidence to the department on a quarterly
4 basis that the particular tourist promotion agency has so proceeded the
5 grant allocated to such tourist promotion agency shall be paid over on
6 such basis to the tourist promotion agency by the department

7 Section 7 Rules and Regulations of the Department The Depart-
8 ment of Commerce is directed to administer this tourist promotion
9 program with such flexibility so as to bring about as effective and eco-
10 nomical a tourist promotion program as possible In order to effectuate
11 and enforce the provisions of this act the Department of Commerce is
12 authorized to promulgate necessary rules and regulations and prescribe
13 procedures in order to assure compliance by tourist promotion agencies
14 in carrying out the purposes for which grants may be made hereunder

15 Section 8 Effective Date This act shall take effect immediately

We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of
Representatives.

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The day of A. D. 1961.

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Governor