

(e) To formulate and submit to the Governor measures for eliminating age restrictions in public employment, reducing relative costs incident to the employment of older workers, and developing financial and other incentives in industry for their employment;

(f) To recommend to the Governor such specific proposals for legislation as are deemed necessary and proper in such fields as unemployment compensation insurance, education, vocational training and rehabilitation for easing and stimulating the employment of aging workers.

Appropriation.

Section 5. Appropriation.—The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary for the administration of this act, exclusive of moneys received by the Commonwealth for such purpose under any act of Congress, is hereby specifically appropriated to the Department of Labor and Industry for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.

Act effective immediately.

Section 6. This act shall become effective immediately upon final enactment.

APPROVED—The 11th day of April, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER

No. 476

AN ACT

Authorizing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to make a study of appropriate ways and methods for developing and promoting the historical interest of Philadelphia and vicinity, and specifically for developing a "colonial compound" in Germantown.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Authority to make a certain study.

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

Section 1. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is hereby authorized and empowered to make a study of appropriate ways and methods by which the historical interest of the City of Philadelphia and of its vicinity may best be promoted and by which historic homes and buildings, still remaining in that area, may be developed and presented as a basis for a fuller understanding and appreciation of the great contribution of colonial Philadelphia to the formation of American ideas and institutions.

Accomplishments of other states.

Section 2. Great attention has been given to such historical developments in other states. At Williamsburg, the colonial capital of Virginia from 1699 to 1779, the Capitol, The Governor's Palace, taverns, homes, and even the colonial jail have been restored in minute and

authentic detail and colonial Williamsburg has become a major attraction for tourists. At Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, a typical eighteenth century New England village has been created by collecting and moving in old buildings from all over New England. A similar and equally interesting project is the development of Cooperstown, New York, under the auspices of the New York State Historical Association. Such unified restorations or developments give visitors the impression of the actual environment of colonial days and, thus, give life and reality to the times when the ideals and institutions of our State and Nation were in the making.

Section 3. Philadelphia was the capital of Pennsylvania from 1683 to 1799, the seat of the Continental Congress during several years of the American Revolution and the capital of the United States from 1790 to 1800. Here, the Declaration of Independence was adopted, and the Constitution of the United States drafted. In the eighteenth century, Philadelphia became the chief city of the American colonies, and the major center of culture and trade. Here, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania made great strides toward free, popular, representative government before and during the Revolution, and the experience and practice of Pennsylvania could serve as guide and model for other states.

Philadelphia.

Section 4. Philadelphia is now a great modern city but there still remain within it many areas where groups of historical buildings survive virtually intact from the past, notably Germantown, where it would be possible to recreate the environment of the past in a convincing and impressive manner. One fine example of an area with historic buildings which are adjacent and well suited to form a distinctive "colonial compound" contains the following buildings:

Area for  
"colonial  
compound."  
Germantown.

(1) Cliveden, otherwise known as the Chew House, and one of the famous mansions of the colonial period. It was built in 1763-1764 by Benjamin Chew who was Attorney General of the Province of Pennsylvania from 1755 to 1769, Chief Justice from 1774 to the Revolution, and President Judge of the High Court of Errors and Appeals from 1791 to 1808. Cliveden was a focal point of the Battle of Germantown on October 3, 1777, and suffered damage from gunfire. This Georgian Colonial House, designed for a man of culture and wealth, is an example of the best taste of the day both in its exterior and interior.

(2) The Bardsley House, at 6500 Germantown Avenue, is a picturesque example of early smaller houses. It dates from colonial times, but is named for John

Bardsley who occupied it in the 1870's. Sometimes, it is called Sparrow Jack's House because Bardsley is said to have imported English sparrows to Germantown.

(3) The Daniel Billmeyer House, also known as the Mathieu House, at 6504 Germantown Avenue, exemplifies domestic architecture of the Federal period. The rear wing of the building dates from colonial times.

(4) The Michael Billmeyer House, at 6505-6507 Germantown Avenue, is of the Colonial period and is really two houses under one roof. According to tradition, the attack on the Chew House during the Battle of Germantown was directed from the front steps of this building. It was acquired by Hans George Bensell in 1727, and sold to the printer Michael Billmeyer in 1789. Here the "Germantauer Zeitung" was published. With its gables and pent eaves, its comfortable rooms and ample proportions, it is typical of colonial Germantown.

(5) The Christopher Mason House or Elkinton House, at 6514 Germantown Avenue, shows the transition between colonial and federal architecture, the rear wing being much earlier than the federal front. It stands on land acquired by Mason in 1797, and the main part was probably built in 1798, the date inscribed on the chimney.

**Cooperation.**

Section 5. In making this study the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission shall cooperate with the Philadelphia Historic Buildings Committee, the Germantown Historical Society, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and any other organizations and agencies which may be concerned in the development of historic Philadelphia.

**Report.**

Section 6. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission shall report to the General Assembly, at its next regular session, the results of this study, giving primary consideration and discussing possibilities with regard to

(1) The development in Germantown of a "colonial compound," including some or all of the historic buildings now remaining in that part of the City of Philadelphia;

(2) Publicizing and calling attention to the significance of historic Philadelphia in the history of the United States;

(3) The establishment of a joint committee or board representing the interest of the Commonwealth, the

Federal Government, the City of Philadelphia and historical organizations in the development and presentation of historic Philadelphia.

Section 7. To aid in carrying out the provisions of this act, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is hereby empowered to create and appoint committees and to appoint historical consultants who shall serve without cost to the Commonwealth. Power to appoint.

APPROVED—The 12th day of April, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER

No. 477

AN ACT

Reenacting and amending the title and the act of May twenty one thousand nine hundred forty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 1633) entitled "An act providing and regulating State assistance for housing, including slum clearance and redevelopment; and making an appropriation," transferring functions of State Planning Board relating to housing and redevelopment to the Department of Commerce; removing slum clearance and certain restrictions as to capital grants for redevelopment purposes from provisions of act; and making an appropriation.

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

Section 1. The title and sections 1 to 5, inclusive, act of May twenty, one thousand nine hundred forty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 1633), known as the "Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Law," are reenacted and amended to read:

Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Law.

Title and sections 1 to 5, inclusive, act of May 20, 1949, P. L. 1633, reenacted and amended.

AN ACT

Providing and regulating State assistance for housing, including [slum clearance and] redevelopment; and making an appropriation.

Title.

Section 1. Short Title.—This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Law."

Short title.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy.—It has been determined by the General Assembly of this Commonwealth:—

Policy.

(a) That in both urban and rural communities of Pennsylvania there exist inadequate or over-crowded dwellings accompanied by an acute shortage of decent, safe and sanitary housing within the financial reach of families of limited incomes;

(b) That these conditions singly and in combination are a menace to the health and welfare of the people