

No. 50

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:

Section 1. Short Title.—This act shall be known, and may be cited as the “Tourist Promotion Law.” Tourist
Promotion Law.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy.—It is hereby determined and declared as a matter of legislative finding:

(1) That the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth are directly dependent upon the continual encouragement, development, growth and expansion of business, industry and commerce within the Commonwealth.

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

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

Section 3. Definitions.—The term “governing bodies” shall mean as to any county, city, borough, town or township, the body empowered to enact ordinances or to adopt resolutions for the governance of such county, city, borough, town or township.

The term “tourist promotion agency” shall mean any nonprofit corporation, organization, association or agency which shall be designated by ordinance in cities of the first class and by proper resolution of the governing body of any county concurred in by resolution of the governing bodies of cities, boroughs, towns or townships within said county having in the aggregate over fifty per centum of the population of said county, as determined by the last preceding decennial United States Census, as the agency authorized to make application to

and receive grants from the Department of Commerce of the Commonwealth for the purposes specified in this act. Any two or more counties may, by the procedures herein provided, designate a single tourist promotion agency to represent such counties for the purposes of this act.

Section 4. Recognition of Tourist Promotion Agencies.—The Department of Commerce, upon receipt of certified copies of such ordinances or resolutions as may be necessary to satisfy it that a tourist promotion agency has been duly designated to act within a particular county or city of the first class, pursuant to section three of this act, shall recognize such tourist promotion agency as the sole such agency within such county or city for the purposes of this act.

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

(1) The tourist promotion agency shall have made application to the Department of Commerce for such grant, and shall have therein set forth the studies, surveys and investigations proposed to be made, and the promotional program and projects proposed to be undertaken for the purpose of encouraging and stimulating tourist, visitor and vacation business in the county or counties. The application shall further state, under oath or affirmation, with evidence thereof satisfactory to the department, the amount of funds held by or committed or subscribed to the tourist promotion agency for application to the purposes herein described and the amount of the grant for which application is made; and

(2) The Department of Commerce, after review of the application, if satisfied that the program of the tourist promotion agency appears to be in accord with the purposes of this act, shall authorize the making of a matching grant to such tourist promotion agency equal to funds of the agency allocated by it to the program described in its application: Provided, however, That such State grant shall not exceed an amount equal to one-tenth of one dollar for each inhabitant of the city, county or counties represented by such agency as determined by the last preceding decennial United States Census or three dollars (\$3) per rentable room as declared under the hotel occupancy tax as administered

by the Department of Revenue, whichever be the higher: Provided, however, That no tourist promotion agency shall be eligible for less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), nor more than twenty per centum of the appropriation to the Department of Commerce for the purposes set forth in this act.

Section 6. Payment of Grants to Tourist Promotion Agencies.—Upon approval of each application and the making of a grant by the department in accordance therewith, the department shall give notice to the particular tourist promotion agency of such approval and grant, and shall direct the tourist promotion agency to proceed with its proposed promotional program as described in its application and to use therefor funds allocated by the tourist promotion agency for such purpose. Upon the furnishing of satisfactory evidence to the department, on a quarterly basis, that the particular tourist promotion agency has so proceeded, the grant allocated to such tourist promotion agency shall be paid over on such basis to the tourist promotion agency by the department.

Section 7. Rules and Regulations of the Department.—The Department of Commerce is directed to administer this tourist promotion program with such flexibility so as to bring about as effective and economical a tourist promotion program as possible. In order to effectuate and enforce the provisions of this act, the Department of Commerce is authorized to promulgate necessary rules and regulations and prescribe procedures in order to assure compliance by tourist promotion agencies in carrying out the purposes for which grants may be made hereunder.

Section 8. Effective Date.—This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 28th day of April, A. D. 1961.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE

No. 51

AN ACT

Amending the act of May 29, 1945 (P. L. 1134), entitled "An act to create a commission to act jointly with commissions appointed for like purpose by the States of West Virginia and Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia, which, together with three members to be appointed by the President of the United States, shall constitute the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, with power to cooperate in the abatement of the existing pollution, and in the control of future pollution of the waters of the drainage