

## No. 322

## AN ACT

SB 1618

Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the Executive Department thereof and the administrative departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof, including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative officers, and of the several administrative departments, boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards, and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and commissions shall be determined," providing for the establishment of a Pennsylvania Ethnic Heritage Studies Center, imposing powers and duties on the Secretary of Education, and making an appropriation.

This legislation is enacted in recognition of the heterogeneous composition and heritage of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and of the fact that in a multi-ethnic society, a greater understanding of the contributions of one's own heritage, of the heritage of one's fellow citizens, and of ways ethnic groups relate and have related to and with each other can contribute to a more harmonious, patriotic, and committed populace. It is further enacted in recognition of the principle that all students in elementary and secondary schools of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should have an opportunity to learn about the differing and unique contributions to Pennsylvania heritage made by each ethnic group. It is the purpose of this act to assist schools and school systems in affording each of their students an opportunity to learn about the nature of his own cultural heritage, and those in which he has an interest, and to study the contributions of these forebears to Pennsylvania.

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

Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as "The Administrative Code of 1929," is amended by adding a section to read:

***Section 1316.1. Ethnic Heritage Studies Center.—(a) The Secretary of Education is authorized to arrange through a grant to a public educational agency for the establishment and operation of a Pennsylvania Ethnic Heritage Studies Center, designed to reflect readily identifiable ethnic groups represented in the population of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Such center shall have the primary***

*responsibility in the Commonwealth for collecting information and research materials germane to the study of the ethnic heritage of the Commonwealth.*

*(b) The center provided for under this section shall:*

*(1) Collect information and research materials necessary for the study of the ethnic heritage of the Commonwealth.*

*(2) Undertake, coordinate and promote research on the Commonwealth's ethnic history.*

*(3) Develop curriculum materials for use in elementary and secondary schools which deal with ethnic groups of the Commonwealth and their contributions to the American Heritage.*

*(4) Train persons in the development of research techniques and materials and in the preparation and use of curriculum materials.*

*(c) In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Education shall so locate the center and make arrangements which will enable it to make the fullest possible use of the facilities of the community colleges, as well as the independent, State-owned and State-related institutions of higher education and of the Historic and Museum Commission, will facilitate access to the materials by scholars and students of all colleges and universities in the Commonwealth, as well as scholars from other states interested in examining the ethnic heritage of Pennsylvania, and will take fullest possible advantage of the special knowledge and collections of ethnic groups in local communities throughout the Commonwealth, and of foreign students pursuing their educations in this country, and the expertise of elementary and secondary school teachers.*

*(d) Funds granted to carry out this section may be used to cover all or part of the cost of establishing, equipping, and operating the center, including the cost of research materials and resources, academic consultants, salary for an executive director, and the cost of training and maintaining a staff for the purpose of carrying out the purposes of this section. Such funds may also be used to provide stipends (in such amounts as may be determined in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Education) to individuals receiving training or seeking to carry out substantial research (as determined by the Executive Director) in the center, including allowances for dependents.*

Section 2. The sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education for the fiscal year July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975 for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act.

Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 26th day of December, A. D. 1974.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly  
No. 322.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a prominent "T" at the end.

*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*