



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 1872 Printer's No. 2893

Prime Sponsor: Representative Metcalfe
Committee: State Government

SYNOPSIS:

Provides for the modernization of the History Code.

SUMMARY:

Amends Title 37 (Historical and Museums) to modernize the History Code with regard to the administration of the State Archives, archival records and other matters, as follows:

- Removes provisions requiring the Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to make an annual report on the Conservation Center, which it no longer operates;
- Removes provisions requiring PHMC to notify donors when disposing of non-beneficial items
- Provides for the sale or disposal of abandoned property on loan to PHMC;
- Specifically authorizes PHMC to administer the State Archives and for the State Archives to be the official repository for permanent and historically valuable public records of the Commonwealth;
- Adds definitions for record, archival record, public record, State Archives and State Archivist;
- Authorizes PHMC to maintain and preserve state and local government records;
- Prohibits the sale or transfer of Commonwealth archival records unless authorized by law and establishes a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500 for violating this provision;
- Sets procedures by which PHMC may retrieve Commonwealth and local archival records held by unauthorized persons or organizations;
- Allows access to archival records 75 years or older, unless specifically prohibited by law; and
- Removes the following properties which have been transferred or sold to other entities Cashiers House, Fort Augusta, John Brown House, Old Brown's Mill School, Old Customs House, Pottsgrove Mansion, and Sodom School House.

Effective Date: 60 Days

BILL HISTORY:

Referred to House State Government, Feb. 26, 2016

First consideration, June 28, 2016

Second consideration, June 30, 2016

Third consideration and final passage, July 1, 2016 (198-0)

Referred to Senate State Government, July 7, 2016

Prepared by: Dando 9/21/2016