



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 178 Printer's No. 170

Prime Sponsor: Senator Scavello and Senator Scarnati
Committee: State Government

SYNOPSIS:

Amends Title 37 to update and modernize the History Code (Code).

SUMMARY:

Amends the Code relating to administration of the State Archives, archival records and other areas by:

1. Adding definitions for Archival Records, the State Archives and State Archivist, Record and Public Record.
2. Removing provision requiring preparation of an annual report relating to the Conservation Center by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), which PHMC no longer operates.
3. Modernizing the sale and disposition of property as well as adding language on abandoned property on loan to the PHMC.
4. Adding language that the State Archives shall be the official repository for the permanent and historically valuable public records of the Commonwealth.
5. Adding sections on the protection and recovery of historical Commonwealth and local government records.
6. Prohibiting the sale or transfer of Commonwealth archival records unless authorized by law or established by approved Commonwealth record retention procedures; provides a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500 for a violation of this provision.
7. Opening access to older public records after 75 years, unless specifically prohibited by law.
8. Removing from the Code certain historical properties that the PHMC either has transferred or sold to other entities.

Effective Date: 60 days.

AMENDMENT A00350

Technical amendment to change outdated reference to notification requirements in Section 305.3 from January 1, 2015 to January 1, 2018.

BILL HISTORY:

Referred to State Government 1/25/2017

Similar versions have been introduced in prior legislative sessions, including Senator Robbins' Senate Bill 1253, which in 2014 unanimously passed in the Senate (48-0).

Prepared by: Totino 3/16/2017