

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 178

**PRINTER NO.** 551

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund  
Historical Preservation Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 25, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Scavello

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 178 amends Title 37 (Historical and Museums) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to modernize the History Code with regard to the administration of the State Archives, archival records and other matters as follows:

- Removes a provision requiring the Historical and Museum Commission (HMC) to make an annual report on the Conservation Center which it no longer operates.
- Removes provisions requiring the HMC to notify donors or their predecessors when disposing of non-beneficial items.
- Provides for the sale or disposal of abandoned property on loan to the HMC.
- Provides for the HMC 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.
- Provides for the HMC to maintain and preserve state and local government records.
- Prohibits the sale or transfer of Commonwealth archival records unless authorized by law and provides for a civil penalty of not more than \$2,500 for violating this provision.
- Provides procedures by which the HMC may retrieve Commonwealth and local archival records held by unauthorized persons.
- Provides access to archival records 75 years or older, unless specifically prohibited by law.
- Removes the following properties which have been transferred or sold to other entities from the law: Cashiers House; Fort Augusta; John Brown House; McCoy House; Old Brown's Mill School; Old Custom House; Old Mill Village; Pottsgrove Mansion; Robert Fulton Birthplace; Sodom School House; and Tuscarora Academy.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

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## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Historical and Museum Commission believes the enactment of Senate Bill 178 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth Funds. Funds from the sale of non-beneficial items and abandoned property would be deposited in the Historical Preservation Fund for use by the HMC.