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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE BILL**

No. **744** Session of  
1961

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INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. STIEFEL AND CHAPMAN,  
JUNE 6, 1961.

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HISTORICAL PRESERVATION,  
JUNE 6, 1961.

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**AN ACT**

To authorize the collection of scattered public records and manuscript materials on the history of the Commonwealth by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and providing an appropriation

WHEREAS Historical papers and in particular important groups of papers and individual items from the public records of the Commonwealth have in times past fallen into private hands with the result that Pennsylvania archival and historical materials of primary im-

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EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through is to be omitted from bill. Underscoring indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

portance to colonial and State history appear from time to time in the offerings of manuscript and autograph dealers both within and without the boundaries of the Commonwealth and

WHEREAS A great volume of local public records and manuscript materials basic to an adequate historical understanding of the founding and development of the Commonwealth are contained in unique copies housed in widely-dispersed courthouses municipal buildings and other depositories where they are relatively difficult of access and in some cases exposed to serious risk of loss therefore

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

- 1 Section 1 The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
- 2 is hereby authorized to acquire by purchase or otherwise in their original
- 3 form or in the form of photographic reproductions any scattered public
- 4 records official papers historical manuscripts maps and plans and rare
- 5 books which it deems to be of importance for the history of this Com-
- 6 monwealth Special attention shall be given to county records prior to
- 7 1800 or in the case of the newer counties to records dating within the
- 8 first ten years following the creation of the county

1       Section 2 The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) or  
2 as much thereof as may be necessary is hereby specifically appropriated  
3 to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for the pur-  
4 chase of records papers manuscripts maps and plans and rare books as  
5 set forth in the first section of this act and for the employment of  
6 photographers by contract or otherwise to make photographic repro-  
7 ductions for the repair of records manuscripts and other materials  
8 found to be in fragile condition for travel supplies and equipment  
9 essential to the collection of records for cataloguing and indexing the  
10 materials acquired to make them readily available to the public and  
11 for other incidental expenses