

## No. 200

## AN ACT

## HB 2375

Amending the act of April 28, 1961 (P.L.111, No.50), entitled "An act providing for assistance to agencies promoting tourist travel and vacation business in Pennsylvania; authorizing the Department of Commerce to make grants and provide assistance to properly designated tourist promotion agencies; conferring powers and imposing duties on the governing bodies of certain political subdivisions," further providing for amounts payable to tourist promotion agencies.

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

Section 1. Section 5, act of April 28, 1961 (P.L.111, No.50), known as the "Tourist Promotion Law," amended November 22, 1967 (P.L.532, No.258), is amended to read:

Section 5. Applications for and Approval of Grants to Tourist Promotion Agencies.—The Department of Commerce is hereby authorized to make grants to recognized tourist promotion agencies, to assist such agencies in the financing of their operational costs for the purposes of making studies, surveys and investigations and in planning and carrying out of their promotional programs and projects: Provided, That before any such grant may be made:

(1) The tourist promotion agency shall have made application to the Department of Commerce for such grant, and shall have therein set forth the studies, surveys and investigations proposed to be made, and the promotional program and projects proposed to be undertaken for the purpose of encouraging and stimulating tourist, visitor and vacation business in the county or counties. The application shall further state, under oath or affirmation, with evidence thereof satisfactory to the department, the amount of funds held by or committed or subscribed to the tourist promotion agency for application to the purposes herein described and the amount of the grant for which application is made; and

(2) The Department of Commerce, after review of the application, if satisfied that the program of the tourist promotion agency appears to be in accord with the purposes of this act, shall authorize the making of a matching grant to such tourist promotion agency equal to funds of the agency allocated by it to the program described in its application: Provided, however, That such State grant shall not exceed an amount equal to one-tenth of one dollar for each inhabitant of the city, county or counties represented by such agency as determined by the last preceding decennial United States Census or **[four dollars (\$4) per rentable room as declared under the hotel occupancy tax as administered by the Department of Revenue, whichever be the higher: Provided, however, That no tourist promotion agency shall be eligible for less than five**

thousand dollars (\$5,000), nor more than twenty per centum of the appropriation to the Department of Commerce] *an amount equal to the local funds expended by such agency for tourist promotion in the previous fiscal year, whichever is greater: Provided, That no tourist promotion agency shall be eligible for more than twenty per centum of the appropriation to the Department of Commerce for the purposes set forth in this act. Any funds appropriated and eligible for allocation which a tourist promotion agency has not certified will be used by March 1 of any fiscal year shall be redistributed to the tourist promotion agencies which show adequate documentation that such funds can be utilized for projects initiated in the present fiscal year and that such funds so redistributed shall be considered encumbered* for the purposes set forth in this act.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in thirty days.

APPROVED—The 20th day of July, A. D. 1974.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 200.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker".

*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*