

No. 1994-153

AN ACT

SB 1066

Authorizing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to acquire, for a nominal sum or gift, on behalf of the Commonwealth, the Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral to be operated as a cultural center for the City of Scranton; providing for their restoration and renovation; and authorizing agreements for the administration thereof.

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

Section 1. Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral of Scranton.

(a) Acquisition.—Notwithstanding the provisions of 37 Pa.C.S. (relating to historical and museums), the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to acquire as a gift or for a nominal consideration in the name of the Commonwealth the Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral located in the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County.

(b) Title.—The deed of conveyance for the property shall transfer to the Commonwealth a fee simple determinable with a possibility of reverter conditioned upon the repayment in full of all indebtedness authorized in section 3(7)(iii) of the act of December 28, 1992 (P.L.1694, No.188), known as the Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 1991-1992, as evidenced by the recordation in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Lackawanna County of a notarized certification by the Secretary of the Budget that the indebtedness has been fully repaid.

(c) Easements and leases.—The conveyance shall be made under and subject to all easements, servitudes and rights of others, including, but not limited to, rights of telephone, telegraph, water, electric, sewer, gas or pipeline companies, as well as under and subject to any interest, estate or tenancies vested in third persons, whether or not appearing of record, for any portion of the land, including specifically a lease from the association to the cultural center and a sublease from the cultural center to the association, the terms of which lease and sublease shall be substantially the same as those contained in the lease and sublease between the association and the cultural center dated December 27, 1989, so as to assure that the property will be maintained and utilized as a cultural center for the Greater Scranton area for at least the next 70 years.

(d) Restoration and maintenance.—Upon acquisition, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is directed to restore, renovate, improve and maintain or contract for the restoration, renovation, improvement and maintenance of the Masonic Temple.

(e) Supervision and management.—The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is authorized to enter into an agreement with the association whereby the association shall have possession and administration of the Masonic Temple to be operated in conjunction with the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple as a cultural center for the City of Scranton. The agreement shall establish the terms of possession in the form of a lease acceptable to both parties. The agreement shall contain a covenant of the association to maintain the property and thereby promote the cultural life and livelihood of the citizens of the City of Scranton and the surrounding area of the city.

(f) Definitions.—As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

“Association.” The Masonic Temple and Scottish Rite Cathedral Association.

“Cultural Center.” The Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple.

“Property.” The Masonic Temple.

Section 2. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 23rd day of December, A.D. 1994.

ROBERT P. CASEY