

CHAPTER 60

AN ACT concerning heritage tourism and amending P.L.1995, c.368.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. a. There is established the “New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force.” The purpose of the task force is to provide strategic direction for the promotion of heritage tourism in New Jersey and to create a comprehensive heritage tourism master plan for New Jersey.

b. The task force shall consist of 19 members as follows:

(1) the Director of the Division of Travel and Tourism in the New Jersey Commerce, Economic Growth and Tourism Commission, or the Director’s designate, who shall serve ex-officio;

(2) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission, or the Executive Director’s designate;

(3) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Historic Trust in the Department of Community Affairs, or the Executive Director’s designate;

(4) the Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources in the Department of Environmental Protection, or the Assistant Commissioner’s designate, who shall serve ex-officio;

(5) the Administrator of the State Historic Preservation Office in the Department of Environmental Protection, or the Administrator’s designate, who shall serve ex-officio;

(6) the Director of the Tourism Advisory Council, or the Director’s designate;

(7) the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, or the Commissioner’s designate, who shall serve ex-officio;

(8) the President of the Advocates for New Jersey History, or the President’s designate;

(9) a representative of New Jersey Public Broadcasting;

(10) three representatives from county or municipal Cultural, Heritage or Historical Commissions, of which, one representative shall be from the Northern, Central and Southern regions of New Jersey, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

(11) a representative of the Center for Hospitality and Tourism at Richard Stockton College;

(12) four public members, who shall be residents of this State and have knowledge and experience with cultural and heritage tourism to be appointed by the Governor;

(13) a representative of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts; and

(14) a representative of ArtPRIDE New Jersey.

c. The members of the task force shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

d. Any vacancy in the membership shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

e. The task force shall be entitled to the assistance and service of the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board, commission or agency, as may be available to it for these purposes, and to incur such traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary for the proper execution of its duties, within the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for these purposes.

f. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the places it designates during the sessions or the recesses of the Legislature.

2. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable upon appointment of a majority of

its members, and shall select a chairperson among its members and a secretary who need not be a member of the task force.

3. The task force may solicit, receive, disburse and monitor grants and other funds made available from any governmental, public, private, not-for-profit or for-profit entity, including funds made available under any federal or State law, regulation or program.

4. The purpose of the task force shall be to improve New Jersey's performance in the regional or national heritage tourism marketplace. The task force shall prepare a heritage tourism master plan with recommendations that shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) improving heritage signage on the highways of the State, (2) establishing a local historic marker program to raise awareness of New Jersey's historical resources, (3) improving the efforts of State, county and municipal governmental agencies to focus more significantly on heritage tourism, (4) promoting coordination between historic sites throughout the State, (5) identifying potential sources of stable funding for the improvement and maintenance of historic sites available for heritage tourism in New Jersey, and (6) establishing criteria for grants to be made from the "Historic Preservation License Plate Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1995, c.368 (C.39:3-27.75).

5. a. In addition to the duties provided in section 4 of this act, the task force shall conduct or cause to be conducted a comprehensive inventory of all historic sites throughout the State that have potential for inclusion in heritage tourism initiatives.

b. The task force is authorized to enter into any and all agreements or contracts necessary, convenient, or desirable to provide for the comprehensive inventory of historic sites throughout the State required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

6. The task force shall submit the heritage tourism master plan and inventory of historic sites in New Jersey to the Governor and both houses of the Legislature no later than 18 months after its organization.

7. Section 4 of P.L.1995, c.368 (C.39:3-27.75) is amended to read as follows:

C.39:3-27.75 "Historic Preservation License Plate Fund" created.

4. a. There is created in the Department of Community Affairs a special non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Historic Preservation License Plate Fund." The fund shall be administered by the New Jersey Historic Trust. There shall be deposited in the fund the amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1995, c.368 (C.39:3-27.74), less the amounts necessary to reimburse the division for administrative costs pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1995, c.368 (C.39:3-27.76). Moneys deposited in the fund shall be dedicated to (1) the awarding of grants to State agencies, local government units, and qualifying tax-exempt nonprofit organizations to meet costs related to the physical preservation of, development of interpretive and educational programming for, or operation of New Jersey's historic resources pursuant to the criteria established by the New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force in the heritage tourism master plan prepared and submitted by the New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force; and (2) the payment of expenses incurred by the New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force up to \$135,000 in implementing the provisions of P.L.2006, c.60. Approval of any grants shall be made by the New Jersey Historic Trust pursuant to its guidelines.

b. Moneys deposited in the fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in public depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or reinvested in such securities as are approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or other income earned on moneys deposited in the fund, and any moneys which may be appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set forth in P.L.1995, c.368 (C.39:3-27.72 et seq.).

8. Section 6 of P.L.1995, c.368 (C.39:3-27.77) is amended to read as follows:

C.39:3-27.77 Notification of eligible motorists.

6. The director shall notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to obtain historic preservation license plates by including a notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals, and by posting appropriate posters or signs in all division facilities and offices, as may be provided by the department. The notices, posters, and signs shall be designed by the New Jersey Historic Trust with the approval of the secretary. The designs shall be subject to the approval of the director, and the secretary shall supply the division with the notices, posters, and signs to be circulated or posted by that division.

9. Section 7 of P.L.1995, c.368 (C.39:3-27.78) is amended to read as follows:

C.39:3-27.78 Procedures set forth in interagency memorandum of agreement.

7. The secretary, the New Jersey Historic Trust, the director, and the State Treasurer shall develop and enter into an interagency memorandum of agreement setting forth the procedures to be followed by the departments, the New Jersey Historic Trust, and the division in carrying out their respective responsibilities under P.L.1995, c.368 (C.39:3-27.72 et seq.).

10. This act shall take effect immediately, except sections 1 through 6 shall expire upon the submission of the report required pursuant to section 6 of this act.

Approved August 2, 2006.