



Senate Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development

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Senate Bill 276, Printer's No. 252

Date: June 13, 2011

Sponsor: Senator Argall

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 276, Printer's No. 252 further provides for the powers and duties of the Department of General Services (department) by expanding the guidelines, established under the Downtown Location Law (Act 32 of 2000) and meant to encourage State agencies to locate all new office facilities in downtown areas, to include the following two additional factors: 1) compatibility with economic revitalization plan for the downtown area and 2) local zoning ordinances. It would also require that the department coordinate existing public and private sector organizations committed to community, downtown revitalization and historic preservation. It is also further specified that the department shall deny requests by a State agency to locate outside a downtown area unless a majority of the factors specified in the guidelines are found to be unsatisfactory to the agency's needs.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

Amendment Summary [A01425] (Earll)

This amendment to section 4 would strike proposed new subsection (a.1) (relating to denial of request) that would require the department to deny a request by a State agency to locate outside a downtown area unless a majority of the factors specified in the guidelines are found to be unsatisfactory to the agency's needs.

Existing Law

Act of June 22, 2000 (P.L.318, No.32), known as the Downtown Location Law mandates that the Department of General Services establish guidelines to encourage State agencies to locate all new office facilities in downtown areas. It further provides that the guidelines shall include the consideration of the following factors:

1. Requirements of the agency.
2. Servicing clientele needs.
3. Local economic considerations.
4. Availability of suitable space in downtown area.
5. Competitiveness in marketplace.
6. Cost
7. Safety to users.
8. Availability of public transportation.

Prior Session Legislation

[2009-10] – Senate Bill 1201, Printer's No. 1613 (Argall) was identical legislation introduced in the prior session and assigned to the Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, but was not considered.