



Stewardship Council

Nathaniel Y. Walton,
Chairman

Melissa Harper, Vice Chair

Ann Canedy, Secretary

Jack Buckley

David C. Murphy

Vivian Ortiz

Alvin L. Reynolds

Dennis Smith

Jennifer N.S. Wilson

Statement of the DCR Stewardship Council on S. 1769, “An Act Relative to the Curatorship Program”

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Stewardship Council recently voted to issue a statement supporting Senate Bill 1769, “An Act Relative to the Curatorship Program,” petitioned by Senator Bruce Tarr.

All properties enrolled in the DCR’s Historic Curatorship Program directly benefit the public by, among other things, (i) enhancing the aesthetics of our peerless state parks, (ii) preserving their historic character and (iii) being open to the public at least two times each year. Moreover, by encouraging curators to repair and occupy formerly vacant and deteriorating buildings, the program relieves the burden on local communities to protect against fire, persistent vandalism and blight.

In exchange for an extended lease (20-30 years), participants may apply the costs they invest against the cost of their lease, but the participants forgo any interest in the property when it reverts back to DCR ownership at the end of the lease. Therefore, it would be inequitable and inconsistent with the program’s purpose to permit local property taxes to be assessed on these properties.

Senator Tarr’s bill is a well-meaning and important piece of legislation, and the DCR Stewardship Council encourages legislators to support it.

Approved by the DCR Stewardship Council, October 11, 2019