

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §8-32-5

PART V. CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL.

§8-32-5. Legislative findings; authority of municipalities and counties to make appropriations for the celebration of historical and commemorative events; limitations and restrictions.

(a) The Legislature hereby finds that the support of nonstock, nonprofit corporations dedicated to making available to the general public, programs, activities or events organized by a commission, committee, group, organization or community, for the purpose of providing historical or cultural activities, municipal, county or regional improvement events or other programs related to the celebration of historical and commemorative events, is for the general welfare of the public and is a public purpose for which funds of a municipality or county may be lawfully expended. This section is enacted in view of this finding and shall be liberally construed in the light thereof.

(b) When a commission, committee, group, organization or community (hereinafter referred to as corporation) is chartered as a nonstock, nonprofit corporation under the laws of this state, and, (1) is organized for the purpose of providing historical or cultural activities, municipal, county or regional improvement events or other programs related to the celebration of a historical or commemorative event, and provides in its charter that its programs, activities or events shall be devoted to the use by the public for all purposes set forth in such charter without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin or economic circumstance, and free from charge except such as is necessary to provide the means to keep any buildings, facilities or grounds in proper condition and repair, or to pay the cost of insurance, care, management, operations, programs, activities or events, so that the general public may have the benefit of such establishments, programs, activities or events for the uses set forth in such corporation's charter at as little expense as possible, (2) provides in its charter that no member, trustee or member of the board of directors (by whatever name the same may be called) of the corporation shall receive any compensation, gain or profit from such corporation, and (3) is operated in compliance with such charter provisions as aforesaid, any municipality in the county in which such corporation is operating, and the county commission of any county in which such corporation is operating, are hereby empowered and authorized to appropriate funds to any such corporation, subject to the provisions and limitations set forth in this section.

(c) Any appropriation shall be made from the General Funds of such municipality or county that have not been otherwise appropriated. Each corporation receiving an appropriation from a municipality or county shall upon demand at any time make a full and complete accounting of all such funds to such governing body of the municipality or to the county commission, as the case may be, and shall in every event without demand make to such governing body or county commission an accounting thereof. Each corporation shall return

to the county or municipality all of the funds the county or municipality appropriated pursuant to this section or pursuant to the previous enactments of this section for the celebration of the American Revolution Bicentennial which are unexpended after the conclusion of the programs, activities or events relating to the historical or commemorative event. The county or municipality may at any time set a date after the conclusion of the programs, activities or events by which such return shall be made.

(d) Under no circumstances whatever shall any action taken by any municipality or county commission under the authority of this section give rise to or create any indebtedness on the part of the municipality, the governing body of such municipality, the county, such county commission, any member of such governing body or county commission or any municipal or county official or employee.

(e) No municipality or county commission may appropriate funds to any corporation under this article unless and until such corporation has recorded a certified copy of its corporate charter in the county in which the principal office of such corporation is located, and has received from the prosecuting attorney a written statement that the charter of such corporation contains the necessary language to comply with the provisions of this article.

(f) No officer, agent or instrumentality of the state shall require that local government funds be appropriated or expended under this section as a prerequisite for, or as matching funds for, a federal or state grant or as a prerequisite to entitle such corporation to receive a grant of federal or state funds.