



Department of General Services State Documents

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

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Summary Information

Repository: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Creator: Pennsylvania. Department of General Services

Title: Department of General Services State Documents

Identifier: GEN-SER

Date: 1975 - Present

Date: Majority of material found within 2003 - Present

Physical Description: 423 Megabytes (22 PDF files)

Language of English

Materials:

Scope and Contents

The Department of General Services (DGS) supports the core operations of Pennsylvania state government, and is the central construction, purchasing, publishing, and maintenance agency for the Commonwealth. DGS builds all non-highway Capital projects, serves as the real estate agent for state-owned land and leases, oversees the Commonwealth vehicle fleet, maintains all state-owned facilities, implements an energy-management and conservation initiative in all state-owned buildings, serves as the state's insurance broker, monitors participation in state contracts by small and small diverse businesses, manages federal and state surplus and supplies, and oversees the Capitol Police, Commonwealth Media Services, and the Bureau of Publications. The Secretary of General Services, the chief executive officer, is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the majority of the Senate. The Secretary is an ex-officio member of the governing bodies of the State Public School Building Authority and the Pennsylvania Higher Educational Facilities Authority, and Insurance Broker of Record for the Commonwealth and Secretary to the Board of Commissioners of Public Grounds and Buildings.

The publications of the Department of General Services contain annual reports and educational guides. Selected topics from these publications include small business diversity, veteran business, and the Pennsylvania Manual. The bulk of the current material is dated from 2003 to present.

Biographical / Historical

This Department was created by Act 45 of 1975 that combined the duties of the Department of Property and Supplies and the General State Authority (GSA). Established by the Act of April 9, 1929 (P.L. 177), the Department of Property and Supplies was the service and purchasing agency for all other state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and other divisions of state government. The General State Authority was created by the Act of March 31, 1949 (P.L. 372). (An earlier GSA created by the Act of June 28, 1935, P.L. 452 was subsequently repealed by the Act of May 18, 1945, P.L. 641). The purpose of the Authority under the 1949 Act was to construct, improve, equip, furnish, maintain, acquire, and operate a wide range of public works, including all state buildings, institutions, airports, state-aided schools, and municipal exhibition halls. Prior to 1968, GSA projects were financed by the sale of General State Authority Bonds. The Act of July 22, 1975 (No. 45) that created the Department of General Services on October 20, 1975 transferred to the new Department the powers and duties of the former Department of Property and Supplies and the General State Authority with the exception that the Authority continued to function as an independent public corporation until the outstanding debt from the bond proceeds spent is retired.

Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Department of Property and Supplies (incorporated agency), General State Authority (incorporated agency)

General Note

Older digitized versions of the Pennsylvania Manual may be found online from the Pennsylvania Data Lab (<https://pennsylvaniadatalab.org/pennsylvania-manual/>) or from Hathitrust (<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006135477>).

Other Finding Aids

For more information concerning the records of the Department of General Services at the Pennsylvania State Archives, please visit:

<https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=class60>.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Politics and government
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