

~~Subtitle 5. Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program.~~~~3-501.~~~~(a) It is hereby found and declared by the General Assembly that:~~~~(1) Historical and cultural heritage museums present, interpret, and preserve unusual and significant objects of the State's heritage for the benefit, enjoyment, and education of the citizens from every community in the State;~~~~(2) Historical and cultural heritage museums are unique and beneficial resources which supplement the State's educational system;~~~~(3) These museums are the repositories and caretakers of irreplaceable cultural items for the benefit not only of today's generation, but of those yet to come;~~~~(4) Museums, many of which are located in small communities, play an important and cost effective role in the leisure time and tourism industry of the State; and~~~~(5) It is desirable that the entire history and heritage of the State be displayed and interpreted to the public where it happened, creating centers of community pride and dispersing tourist activity throughout the State, since it is neither feasible nor desirable to try to display that heritage in a single facility at one location.~~~~(b) The General Assembly therefore declares that the public interest is served by the establishment of a program of financial assistance to help historical and cultural heritage museums become more accessible to the citizens and visitors of the State, and to assist the citizenry in better understanding its diverse cultural heritage by supporting the upgrade, care, research, interpretation, documentation, and display of the State's irreplaceable historical, and cultural museum collections.~~~~3-502.~~~~(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.~~~~(b) "Local jurisdiction" means any county or any municipal corporation subject to the provisions of Article XI-E of the Maryland Constitution, and any duly authorized agency or instrumentality of a local jurisdiction.~~~~(c) "Museum" means a facility in the State which is organized on a nonprofit basis for essentially educational or preservation purposes, and which:~~~~(1) Owns or utilizes tangible inanimate objects;~~~~(2) Is organized for the care of those objects and exhibits them to the public on a regular schedule; and~~~~(3) Interprets the State's cultural heritage or the State's history, natural history, or history of science and technology.~~