

CHAPTER 63**(SB 148)**

AN ACT relating to the official theatre pipe organ of Kentucky.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ is the sole remaining theatre pipe organ originally installed in a theatre in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the theatre organ is a uniquely American musical invention, designed and constructed to provide sound accompaniment in the silent era of motion pictures; and

WHEREAS, between 1910 and the 1930s, there were nearly 7,000 theatre organs across the United States performing each day for motion pictures; and

WHEREAS, soon after sound came to motion pictures, these theatre organs were abandoned, discarded, given away, or left to languish dormant in their theatres, leaving at the present time approximately 125 theatre organs in public venues nationally; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Theatre's Wurlitzer organ was initially installed in 1922 and, when it was enlarged in 1926, was described as the "largest theatre organ in the South"; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the Kentucky's Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ Project, Inc., a not-for-profit, tax-exempt Kentucky corporation consisting of private citizens and representatives of the University of Kentucky and the Lexington Fayette Urban-County Government, was established to renovate and reinstall the three-manual fourteen-rank (sets of pipes) theatre organ in the Kentucky Theatre; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 1999, the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated the Kentucky Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ as an Official Project of "Save America's Treasures"; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the restoration of the organ and its reinstallation in the Kentucky Theatre, the glorious, majestic sounds of the most powerful musical instrument ever produced will once again thrill Kentuckians in such events as daily mini-concerts between movies, an annual concert subscription series, and educational curriculum programs with area schools and universities;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The Kentucky Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ located in Lexington is the official theatre pipe organ of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Approved March 11, 2005.