

**House Judiciary Committee Voting Meeting**  
**Majority Caucus Room**  
**Room 140 Main Capitol**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17120**  
**June 17, 2026**  
**9:30 AM**

PLEASE NOTE: FOUR AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE AGENDA; THE CORRESPONDING MATERIALS HAVE BEEN UPLOADED

**Agenda**

**House Bill 131 (RABB)** An Act amending Title 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in law enforcement background investigations and employment information, further providing for maintenance of records and for hiring report; and imposing penalties.

**House Bill 733 (McNEILL)** An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in marriage ceremony, further providing for persons qualified to solemnize marriages.

**A03640 (BRIGGS)**

**House Bill 1381 (BOYD)** An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juvenile matters, further providing for definitions.

**House Bill 1731 (GUZMAN)** An Act providing for consumer debt collection fairness.

**A03345 (BRIGGS)**

**House Bill 2033 (DAVIDSON)** An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in food protection, providing for correctional institutions; imposing duties on the Department of Agriculture; and promulgating regulations.

**House Bill 2136 (KINKEAD)** An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in medical services, providing for diagnoses prior to incarceration.

**House Bill 2281 (BRIGGS)** An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juries and jurors, further providing for qualifications of jurors.

**A03652 (BRIGGS)**

**House Bill 2344 (ORTITAY/CONKLIN)** An Act amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for protections against coerced debt; and imposing duties on the Treasury Department.

**A03695 (KAUFFMAN)**

**House Bill 2035 (METZGAR)** An Act amending the act of August 11, 1967 (P.L.205, No.69), entitled "An act to validate conveyances and other instruments which have been defectively acknowledged," extending the date for validation of certain conveyances and other instruments.

**Senate Bill 1293 (J. WARD)** For purposes of re-referral.

**And any other business that comes before the Committee**

## **Adjournment**

Please advise Maya Fitterer, MFitterer@pahouse.net, with your attendance plans. Thank you.

## **Attachments:**

- Sunshine Memo
- Judiciary Committee June 17 Agenda
- HB131
- HB131 BA
- HB733
- A03640 to HB733
- HB733 BA
- HB1381
- HB1381 BA
- HB1731
- A03345 to HB1731
- HB1731 BA
- HB2033
- HB2033 BA
- HB2136
- HB2136 BA
- HB2281
- A03652 to HB2281
- HB2281 BA
- HB2344
- A03695 to HB2344
- HB2344 BA
- HB2035
- HB2035 BA
- SB1293
- SB1293 BA
- SB779
- A03561 to SB779
- SB779 BA

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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY, CHAIRMAN

CAUCUSES

LIFE SCIENCE, CHAIR  
BRAIN INJURY, CHAIR

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION (PASSHE), BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME &  
DELINQUENCY (PCCD), COMMISSIONER

June 12, 2026

TO: House Judiciary Committee Members  
FROM: Tim Briggs, Majority Chairman  
RE: **Voting Meeting**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Briggs".

The House Judiciary Committee will hold a **voting meeting** on **Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in 140 Main Capitol Building**. The Committee is scheduled to consider the following:

**House Bill 131 (Rabb)** An Act amending Title 44 (Law and Justice) in law enforcement background investigations and employment information, further providing for maintenance of records and for hiring report; and imposing penalties.

**House Bill 733 (McNeill)** An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) in marriage ceremony, further providing for persons qualified to solemnize marriages.

**House Bill 1381 (Boyd)** An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) in juvenile matters, further providing for definitions.

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**House Bill 2281 (Briggs)** An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) in juries and jurors, further providing for qualifications of jurors.

**House Bill 2344 (Ortitay/Conklin)** An Act amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade), providing for protections against coerced debt; and imposing duties on the Treasury Department.

**House Bill 2035 (Metzgar)** An Act amending the act of August 11, 1967 (P.L.205, No.69), entitled "An act to validate conveyances and other instruments which have been defectively acknowledged," extending the date for validation of certain conveyances and other instruments.

Please see back of page

**Senate Bill 1293 (J. Ward)** For purposes of re-referral.

**And any other business that comes before the committee.**

Please advise Maya Fitterer, MFitterer@pahouse.net, with your attendance plans. Thank you.

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**And any other business that comes before the Committee**

**Adjournment**

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 131 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY RABB, WAXMAN, D. WILLIAMS, O'MARA, SCOTT, SANCHEZ,  
CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, BRIGGS AND N. NELSON, JUNE 8, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 9, 2026

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in law enforcement background  
3 investigations and employment information, further providing  
4 for maintenance of records and for hiring report; and  
5 imposing penalties.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 7308 of Title 44 of the Pennsylvania  
9 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:

10 § 7308. Maintenance of records.

11 \* \* \*

12 (d) Penalties for noncompliance.--A law enforcement agency  
13 that fails to put all relevant separation records into the  
14 database in a timely manner under section 7309(d) (relating to  
15 reporting) shall be ineligible to receive State funding for  
16 equipment, hiring or overtime expenses. A noncompliant law  
17 enforcement agency that seeks State funding designated for the  
18 purpose of violence intervention, victim services or community  
19 engagement programs shall first obtain the approval of the

1 commission.

2 Section 2. Section 7311 of Title 44 is amended to read:

3 § 7311. Hiring report.

4 (a) Information required to be reported.--If a prospective  
5 employing law enforcement agency hires an applicant whose  
6 separation records includes any of the following, the law  
7 enforcement agency shall file a report with the commission that  
8 indicates the prospective employing law enforcement agency's  
9 reasoning and rationale for hiring the applicant[:] and  
10 materially addresses why an applicant should be hired in  
11 response to each documented disciplinary action in each of the  
12 enumerated categories below. A hiring report shall be formatted  
13 so that each disciplinary action per enumerated category is  
14 required to be selected as appropriate:

15 (1) [Final and binding disciplinary] Disciplinary action  
16 based on any of the following:

- 17 (i) excessive force;
- 18 (ii) harassment;
- 19 (iii) theft;
- 20 (iv) discrimination;
- 21 (v) sexual abuse;
- 22 (vi) sexual misconduct;
- 23 (vii) domestic violence;
- 24 (viii) coercion of a false confession;
- 25 (ix) filing a false report; or

26 [(x) a judicial finding of dishonesty.]

27 (x.1) a finding of dishonesty at any level by an  
28 authority, internal or external, including judicial,  
29 civil or administrative.

30 (2) A criminal conviction relating to conduct described

1 in paragraph (1).

2 (b) Electronic database of commission.--

3 (1) The hiring report shall be included in the  
4 commission's electronic database.

5 (2) The hiring report shall be on a form developed by  
6 the commission and made available on the commission's  
7 publicly accessible Internet website.

8 (3) The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and  
9 Delinquency, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Majority  
10 Leader of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader  
11 of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House of  
12 Representatives may request that the commission produce a  
13 report within five business days that documents the following  
14 information:

15 (i) The number of agencies participating.

16 (ii) The number of separation records added in the  
17 last 12-month period.

18 (iii) The number of separation records containing  
19 allegations applicable in subsection (a), past and  
20 present.

21 (iv) The number of conditional offers of employment  
22 made by the county or law enforcement agency.

23 (v) The total number of hiring reports.

24 (vi) The number of hiring reports submitted.

25 (vii) The number of applicants for which hiring  
26 reports were submitted.

27 (viii) The number of applicants rejected due to  
28 substantiated allegations, complaints or final and  
29 binding disciplinary action in the system.

30 (ix) The number of hirings despite allegations in

1           each category.

2           (4) By January 31 each year, the commission, in  
3           coordination with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and  
4           Delinquency, shall publish on the commission's publicly  
5           accessible Internet website an annual report reviewing the  
6           efficacy of the database on police accountability, community  
7           safety and best practices in human resources within law  
8           enforcement agencies. This report shall include:

9                   (i) The number of separation records added in the  
10                   last 12 months.

11                   (ii) The number of separation records containing  
12                   allegations in subsection (a).

13                   (iii) The number of hirings despite allegations in  
14                   each category in subsection (a).

15           (c) Subject to disclosure.--The hiring report shall be  
16 subject to disclosure under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6,  
17 No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

18           (d) Public notice required prior to hiring.--A prospective  
19           employing law enforcement agency, municipality or entity that  
20           hires agents defined under State law as peace officers whose  
21           record of separation includes any of the following reasons or  
22           circumstances for separation shall issue a public notice 14  
23           business days before the prospective employing law enforcement  
24           agency or municipality takes formal action to hire the  
25           prospective officer:

26                   (1) Substantiated allegations, substantiated complaints  
27                   or completed or ongoing investigations, whether internal or  
28                   external, of the use of excessive force, harassment, theft,  
29                   discrimination, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, domestic  
30                   violence, coercion of a false confession, filing a false

1 report or any finding of dishonesty at any level by an  
2 authority, internal or external, including judicial, civil or  
3 administrative.

4 (2) Criminal charges related to substantiated  
5 allegations, substantiated complaints or completed or ongoing  
6 investigations, whether internal or external, of the use of  
7 excessive force, harassment, theft, discrimination, sexual  
8 abuse, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, coercion of a  
9 false confession, filing a false report or any finding of  
10 dishonesty at any level by any authority, internal or  
11 external, including judicial, civil or administrative.

12 (e) Penalties for noncompliance.--A law enforcement agency  
13 or other entity that hires a peace officer that does not comply  
14 with the requirements of this chapter or fails to include all  
15 relevant separation records into the database in a timely manner  
16 under section 7309(d) (relating to reporting) shall be  
17 ineligible to apply or otherwise receive State grants or other  
18 incentives. Municipal, county or other governmental entities  
19 with budget authority over law enforcement or other agencies  
20 that hire peace officers within their jurisdiction shall be made  
21 ineligible for applying for or receipt of State money or tax  
22 incentives due to noncompliance with this chapter.

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB0131 PN3563	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Michelle Batt, Esq. (717) 705-1880,6078
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Rabb, Chris		
<b>Date:</b>	6/10/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Provides transparency and accountability for law enforcement agencies who hire law enforcement officers with past disciplinary actions and imposes a penalty for law enforcement agencies who fail to comply with the reporting requirements under this chapter.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

Amends title 44, Ch. 73 (Law Enforcement Background Investigations and Employment Information) to provide additional transparency and accountability for law enforcement agencies who hire law enforcement officers with past disciplinary actions.

Amends section 7308 to impose a penalty for non-compliance. If law enforcement agency fails to put all relevant separation records into the database in a timely manner under section 7309(d) (relating to reporting) they shall be ineligible to receive State funding for equipment, hiring or overtime expenses. A noncompliant law enforcement agency that seeks State funding designated for the purpose of violence intervention, victim services or community engagement programs shall first obtain the approval of the commission.

Amends section 7311 (a) (Hiring report) to require a prospective employing law enforcement agency to materially address why an applicant should be hired and response to each documented disciplinary action in each of the enumerated categories. Permits all disciplinary action against a law enforcement officer to be considered when law enforcement agencies are making hiring decisions to include a finding of dishonesty at any level by an authority, internal or external, including judicial, civil or administrative.

Amends section 7311 (b) (Electronic database of commission) to allow PCCD and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House and Senate to request that the commission produce a report within five business days that documents the following information:

- i. The number of agencies participating.
- ii. The number of separation records added in the last 12-month period.
- iii. The number of separation records containing allegations applicable in subsection (a), past and present.
- iv. The number of conditional offers of employment made by the county or law enforcement agency.
- v. The total number of hiring reports.
- vi. The number of hiring reports submitted.
- vii. The number of applicants for which hiring reports were submitted.
- viii. The number of applicants rejected due to substantiated allegations, complaints or final and binding disciplinary action in the system.
- ix. The number of hirings despite allegations in each category.

### **Annual Report:**

By January 31 each year, the commission, in coordination with PCCD, shall publish on the commission's publicly accessible Internet website an annual report reviewing the efficacy of the database on police accountability, community safety and best practices in human resources within law enforcement agencies. This report shall include the number of separation records

added in the last 12 months, the number of separation records containing allegations in subsection (a), the number of hiring despite allegations in each category in subsection (a).

The bill also requires 14 days public notice before a prospective employing law enforcement agency or municipality takes formal action to hire a prospective officer with any of the following reasons or circumstances for separation from a previous employment:

1. Substantiated allegations, substantiated complaints or completed or ongoing investigations, whether internal or external, of the use of excessive force, harassment, theft, discrimination, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, coercion of a false confession, filing a false report or any finding of dishonesty at any level by an authority, internal or external, including judicial, civil or administrative.
2. Criminal charges related to substantiated allegations, substantiated complaints or completed or ongoing investigations, whether internal or external, of the use of excessive force, harassment, theft, discrimination, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, coercion of a false confession, filing a false report or any finding of dishonesty at any level by any authority, internal or external, including judicial, civil or administrative.

A law enforcement agency that does not comply with the requirements of this chapter or fails to include all relevant separation records into the database in a timely manner shall be ineligible to apply or otherwise receive State grants or other incentives. Municipal, county or other governmental entities with budget authority over law enforcement or other agencies that hire peace officers within their jurisdiction shall be made ineligible for applying for or receipt of State money or tax incentives due to noncompliance with this chapter.

**Effective Date:**

60 Days.

**G. Relevant Existing Laws**

Title 44, Ch. 73

LAW ENFORCEMENT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

§ 7301. Scope of chapter.

This chapter relates to law enforcement background investigations and employment information for law enforcement officers.

§ 7302. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Applicant." A person applying for employment as a law enforcement officer or for a position leading to employment as a law enforcement officer.

"Commission." The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission.

"Employment information." Written information in connection with job applications, performance evaluations, attendance records, disciplinary actions and eligibility for rehire.

"Final and binding disciplinary action." Disciplinary action in which a law enforcement officer voluntarily accepts discipline or, in the case of appeal by the disciplined officer, disciplinary action in which the appeal has been exhausted or resolved by settlement agreement, arbitration or other dispute resolution mechanism.

"Law enforcement agency." A law enforcement agency in this Commonwealth that is the employer of a law enforcement officer.

"Law enforcement officer." The term shall have the same meaning as the term "peace officer" under 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to definitions).

"Prospective employing law enforcement agency." A law enforcement agency in this Commonwealth that is considering employing a law enforcement officer.

"Separation records." Records required to be maintained under section 7308 (relating to maintenance of records).

§ 7303. Background investigation required.

(a) General rule.--A prospective employing law enforcement agency shall conduct a thorough background investigation on an applicant, including a review of the applicant's employment information and separation records, if applicable, in accordance with this chapter, before the applicant may be employed. The background investigation shall determine at a minimum whether the applicant meets the standards established by the commission.

(b) Higher standards not precluded.--The required background investigation does not prevent a law enforcement agency from establishing higher standards for law enforcement employees if those standards are not contrary to applicable law.

§ 7304. Disclosure of employment information.

Upon request of a prospective employing law enforcement agency, a law enforcement agency shall disclose or otherwise make available for inspection employment information of an applicant who is the subject of a background investigation under this chapter. The request for disclosure of employment information must be:

- (1) in writing;
- (2) accompanied by an original authorization and release signed by the applicant; and
- (3) signed by the chief of police or other authorized representative of the prospective employing law enforcement agency conducting the background investigation.

§ 7305. Refusal to disclose employment information.

If a law enforcement agency refuses to disclose employment information to a prospective employing law enforcement agency in accordance with this chapter, the prospective employing law enforcement agency may petition Commonwealth Court to issue an order directing the disclosure of the employment information. The petition must include a copy of the original request for disclosure and the authorization and release signed by the applicant.

§ 7306. Immunity.

(a) General rule.--In the absence of fraud or malice, a law enforcement agency is immune from civil liability for employment information released to a prospective employing law enforcement agency in accordance with this chapter or for any subsequent publication made by the prospective employing law enforcement agency or the applicant of employment information released to a law enforcement agency under this chapter.

(b) Release in violation of chapter.--

- (1) A law enforcement agency is not immune from civil liability for employment information released in violation of this chapter.
- (2) An applicant adversely affected by the release of employment information in violation of this chapter may seek declarative and injunctive relief and actual and punitive damages attributable to the violation in an appropriate court.

(3) The court shall award reasonable expenses, including attorney fees, court costs and compensation for loss of income, to the applicant adversely affected if an action under paragraph (2) results in:

- (i) a final determination by a court in favor of the law enforcement officer adversely affected; or
- (ii) rescission of the challenged release of information after suit has been filed under paragraph (2) but prior to a final determination by a court.

§ 7307. Confidentiality agreements and nondisclosure.

(a) When agreement exists.--If employment information is subject to a confidentiality agreement between the applicant and a law enforcement agency, the applicant shall disclose to the prospective employing law enforcement agency the fact that a confidentiality agreement exists.

(b) When agreement is absent and applicant authorizes release.--If the applicant has authorized the release of employment information without regard to a previous agreement to the contrary, the law enforcement agency may disclose the employment information in accordance with this chapter.

(c) Employment information sealed or subject to court order.--If employment information is sealed or otherwise subject to a nondisclosure order by a court of competent jurisdiction, the law enforcement agency shall disclose to the prospective employing law enforcement agency the fact that a nondisclosure order exists, along with information identifying the court and case number.

§ 7308. Maintenance of records.

(a) General rule.--In addition to any other employment information required to be maintained under current law and regulation, a law enforcement agency shall maintain the following separation records:

- (1) Records of the reason or reasons for, and circumstances surrounding, a separation of service for a law enforcement officer on a form developed by the commission and made available on its publicly accessible Internet website.
- (2) Records of all criminal charges filed against a law enforcement officer.
- (3) Records of all civil or ethical complaints made against a law enforcement officer.
- (4) Records of the disposition of all charges and complaints, including final and binding disciplinary actions, taken by the law enforcement agency against a law enforcement officer, including imposition of probationary or other conditions related to employment.

(b) Review of separation records.--A law enforcement officer may review a separation record upon the request of the law enforcement officer on a form developed by the commission and made available on the law enforcement agency's publicly accessible Internet website.

(c) Disagreement with record accuracy.--

- (1) If a law enforcement officer disagrees with the accuracy of the contents of a separation record, the law enforcement officer may request the correction or removal of the portion of the record believed to be incorrect. The request must be made in writing using a form developed by the commission and available on the commission's publicly accessible Internet website. The law enforcement agency shall provide written reasons for correction or removal of a portion of the record, or of the refusal to do so.

(2) If the law enforcement agency and the law enforcement officer cannot reach an agreement on the contents of the record, the law enforcement officer may submit a written statement explaining the law enforcement officer's position and the basis for the disagreement. The statement shall be kept with and part of the separation records required under this section and provided with the rest of the contents of the separation records as required under section 7310 (relating to disclosure of separation).

§ 7309. Reporting.

(a) Electronic database.--

(1) The commission shall establish and maintain an electronic database containing the separation records.

(2) The database shall be accessible to all law enforcement agencies in this Commonwealth.

(3) Except as provided under section 7311(c) (relating to hiring report), separation records maintained in the database shall be exempt from disclosure under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

(b) Procedure.--The commission shall establish a procedure by which a law enforcement agency may request and review separation records in the database for the purpose of employing an applicant.

(c) Request log.--The commission shall log all requests from law enforcement agencies for separation records and may not disclose the name of any law enforcement officer subject to a request for separation records to the public. The information provided to a law enforcement agency, including a law enforcement agency outside of this Commonwealth, shall be exempt from disclosure under the Right-to-Know Law.

(d) Time period to submit.--Upon the separation of an officer from a law enforcement agency, the law enforcement agency shall submit the separation records to the commission within 15 days of separation.

(e) Good faith immunity.--

(1) A former employing law enforcement agency that submits a separation record to the database in good faith is immune from civil liability for the subsequent disclosure of that record from the database.

(2) A law enforcement agency is presumed to be acting in good faith at the time of a disclosure under this chapter unless a preponderance of the evidence establishes one or more of the following:

(i) the law enforcement agency knew that the separation record was false or misleading;

(ii) the law enforcement agency submitted the separation record with a reckless disregard for the truth; or

(iii) submission of the separation record was specifically prohibited by a Federal or State law.

§ 7310. Disclosure of separation.

(a) Waiver required.--

- (1) An applicant shall provide to the prospective employing law enforcement agency, upon an offer of employment, a signed waiver under this section.
- (2) The waiver shall expressly allow the prospective employing law enforcement agency to contact the commission to seek a copy of any separation record.
- (3) The waiver shall consist of a form developed by the commission and made available on the commission's publicly accessible Internet website.
- (4) The prospective employing law enforcement agency shall provide the signed waiver to the commission.
- (5) Upon receipt of the signed waiver, the commission shall, within seven days, provide a copy of any separation record relating to the applicant to the prospective employing law enforcement agency or certify that no separation record is in the database.

(b) Record of separation condition of hiring.--A prospective employing law enforcement agency may not hire an applicant until the prospective employing law enforcement agency receives a copy of the separation record or certification of no separation record from the commission.

§ 7311. Hiring report.

(a) Information required to be reported.--If a prospective employing law enforcement agency hires an applicant whose separation records includes any of the following, the law enforcement agency shall file a report with the commission that indicates the prospective employing law enforcement agency's reasoning and rationale for hiring the applicant:

(1) Final and binding disciplinary action based on any of the following:

- (i) excessive force;
- (ii) harassment;
- (iii) theft;
- (iv) discrimination;
- (v) sexual abuse;
- (vi) sexual misconduct;
- (vii) domestic violence;
- (viii) coercion of a false confession;
- (ix) filing a false report; or
- (x) a judicial finding of dishonesty.

(2) A criminal conviction relating to conduct described in paragraph (1).

(b) Electronic database of commission.--

- (1) The hiring report shall be included in the commission's electronic database.
- (2) The hiring report shall be on a form developed by the commission and made available on the commission's publicly accessible Internet website.

(c) Subject to disclosure.--The hiring report shall be subject to disclosure under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

§ 7312. Regulations.

(a) Temporary regulations.--In order to facilitate the prompt implementation of this chapter, the commission shall promulgate temporary regulations within six months of the effective date of this section that shall expire no later than two years following the publication of the temporary regulations. The commission shall promulgate temporary regulations not subject to:

(1) Section 612 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929.

(2) Sections 201, 202, 203, 204 and 205 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.769, No.240), referred to as the Commonwealth Documents Law.

(3) Sections 204(b) and 301(10) of the act of October 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth Attorneys Act.

(4) The act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act.

(b) Publication.--The commission shall transmit the temporary regulations to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin no later than six months after the effective date of this section.

(c) Contents.--The commission shall, by regulation, including temporary regulation, establish the following:

(1) Procedures to guarantee the confidentiality of employment information and separation records.

(2) Procedures to guarantee the security of the database established under this chapter.

(3) Reportable disciplinary actions and criminal conduct falling within the scope of section 7311 (relating to hiring report).

(4) Any other procedure deemed necessary by the commission for implementation of this chapter.

**E. Prior Session** (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes).

HB 1531 passed out of the House Judiciary Committee on October 3, 2023.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 733 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY McNEILL, MADDEN, OTTEN, GIRAL, RABB, SANCHEZ,  
NEILSON, BERNSTINE AND CERRATO, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in marriage ceremony, further  
3 providing for persons qualified to solemnize marriages.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 1503(a) of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:  
8 § 1503. Persons qualified to solemnize marriages.

9 (a) General rule.--The following are authorized to solemnize  
10 marriages between persons that produce a marriage license issued  
11 under this part:

12 \* \* \*

13 (7) An individual of a religious order, body or  
14 institution authorized by the rules and customs of that  
15 order, body or institution to perform a marriage ceremony.

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 733

Sponsor: **Briggs**

Printer's No. 757

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 6 through 16, by striking out all  
2 of said lines and inserting

3 Section 1. Section 1503(a) of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania  
4 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by  
5 adding a subsection to read:

6 § 1503. Persons qualified to solemnize marriages.

7 (a) General rule.--The following are authorized to solemnize  
8 marriages between persons that produce a marriage license issued  
9 under this part:

10 [(1) A justice, judge or magisterial district judge of  
11 this Commonwealth.

12 (2) A former or retired justice, judge or magisterial  
13 district judge of this Commonwealth who is serving as a  
14 senior judge or senior magisterial district judge as provided  
15 or prescribed by law; or not serving as a senior judge or  
16 senior magisterial district judge but meets the following  
17 criteria:

18 (i) has served as a magisterial district judge,  
19 judge or justice, whether or not continuously or on the  
20 same court, by election or appointment for an aggregate  
21 period equaling a full term of office;

22 (ii) has not been defeated for reelection or  
23 retention;

24 (iii) has not been convicted of, pleaded nolo  
25 contendere to or agreed to an Accelerated Rehabilitative  
26 Disposition or other probation without verdict program  
27 relative to any misdemeanor or felony offense under the  
28 laws of this Commonwealth or an equivalent offense under  
29 the laws of the United States or one of its territories  
30 or possessions, another state, the District of Columbia,  
31 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or a foreign nation;

32 (iv) has not resigned a judicial commission to avoid  
33 having charges filed or to avoid prosecution by Federal,  
34 State or local law enforcement agencies or by the  
35 Judicial Conduct Board;

36 (v) has not been removed from office by the Court of  
37 Judicial Discipline; and

38 (vi) is a resident of this Commonwealth.

1 (3) An active or senior judge or full-time magistrate of  
2 the District Courts of the United States for the Eastern,  
3 Middle or Western District of Pennsylvania.

4 (3.1) An active, retired or senior bankruptcy judge of  
5 the United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern, Middle  
6 or Western District of Pennsylvania who is a resident of this  
7 Commonwealth.

8 (4) An active, retired or senior judge of the United  
9 States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit who is a  
10 resident of this Commonwealth.

11 (5) A mayor of any city or borough of this Commonwealth.

12 (5.1) A former mayor of a city or borough of this  
13 Commonwealth who:

14 (i) has not been defeated for reelection;

15 (ii) has not been convicted of, pleaded nolo  
16 contendere to or agreed to an Accelerated Rehabilitative  
17 Disposition or other probation without verdict program  
18 relative to a misdemeanor or felony offense under the  
19 laws of this Commonwealth or an equivalent offense under  
20 the laws of the United States or any one of its  
21 possessions, another state, the District of Columbia, the  
22 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or a foreign nation;

23 (iii) has not resigned the position of mayor to  
24 avoid having charges filed or to avoid prosecution by  
25 Federal, State or local law enforcement agencies;

26 (iv) has served as a mayor, whether continuously or  
27 not, by election for an aggregate of a full term in  
28 office; and

29 (v) is a resident of this Commonwealth.

30 (6) A minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly  
31 established church or congregation.]

32 (1) An active or former Governor or Lieutenant Governor.

33 (2) An active or former member of the General Assembly.

34 (3) An active or former justice, judge or magisterial  
35 district judge of this Commonwealth.

36 (4) An active, retired or senior judge or full-time  
37 magistrate of the District Courts of the United States for  
38 the Eastern, Middle or Western District of Pennsylvania.

39 (5) An active, retired or senior bankruptcy judge of the  
40 United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern, Middle or  
41 Western District of Pennsylvania.

42 (6) An active or former mayor of a city or borough and  
43 an active or former chief executive of a home rule  
44 municipality of this Commonwealth.

45 (7) A minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly  
46 established church or congregation.

47 (8) An individual of a religious order, body or  
48 institution authorized by the rules and customs of that  
49 order, body or institution to perform a marriage ceremony.

50 (a.1) Exception.--An individual listed under subsection (a)  
51 may not solemnize marriages between persons that produce a

1 marriage license issued under this part if:

2 (1) The individual has been convicted of any felony  
3 offense under the laws of this Commonwealth or an equivalent  
4 offense under the laws of the United States or one of its  
5 territories or possessions, another state, the District of  
6 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or a foreign  
7 nation.

8 (2) The individual has resigned from the individual's  
9 position to avoid having charges filed or to avoid  
10 prosecution.

11 (3) The individual has been removed from office.

12 (4) The individual is not a current resident of this  
13 Commonwealth.

14 \* \* \*

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB0733 PN0757	<b>Prepared By:</b>	David Vitale, Esq. (717) 705-7011,6791
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	McNeill, Jeanne		
<b>Date:</b>	2/26/2025		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Provides for any individual of a religious order, body or institution authorized by the rules and customs of that order, body or institution to solemnize marriages within the Commonwealth.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

Amends 23 Pa.C.S. Section 1503(a) to clarify that any individual of a religious order, body or institution authorized by the rules and customs of that order, body or institution to perform a marriage ceremony.

#### **Effective Date:**

60 Days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

23 Pa.C.S. § 1503. Persons qualified to solemnize marriages.

(a) General rule.--The following are authorized to solemnize marriages between persons that produce a marriage license issued under this part:

(1) A justice, judge or magisterial district judge of this Commonwealth.

(2) A former or retired justice, judge or magisterial district judge of this Commonwealth who is serving as a senior judge or senior magisterial district judge as provided or prescribed by law; or not serving as a senior judge or senior magisterial district judge but meets the following criteria:

(i) has served as a magisterial district judge, judge or justice, whether or not continuously or on the same court, by election or appointment for an aggregate period equaling a full term of office;

(ii) has not been defeated for reelection or retention;

(iii) has not been convicted of, pleaded nolo contendere to or agreed to an Accelerated Rehabilitative

Disposition or other probation without verdict program relative to any misdemeanor or felony offense under the laws of this Commonwealth or an equivalent offense under the laws of the United States or one of its territories or possessions, another state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or a foreign nation;

(iv) has not resigned a judicial commission to avoid having charges filed or to avoid prosecution by Federal, State or local law enforcement agencies or by the Judicial Conduct Board;

(v) has not been removed from office by the Court of Judicial Discipline; and

(vi) is a resident of this Commonwealth.

(3) An active or senior judge or full-time magistrate of the District Courts of the United States for the Eastern, Middle or Western District of Pennsylvania.

(3.1) An active, retired or senior bankruptcy judge of the United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern, Middle or Western District of Pennsylvania who is a resident of this Commonwealth.

(4) An active, retired or senior judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit who is a resident of this Commonwealth.

(5) A mayor of any city or borough of this Commonwealth.

(5.1) A former mayor of a city or borough of this Commonwealth who:

(i) has not been defeated for reelection;

(ii) has not been convicted of, pleaded nolo contendere to or agreed to an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition or other probation without verdict program relative to a misdemeanor or felony offense under the laws of this Commonwealth or an equivalent offense under the laws of the United States or any one of its possessions, another state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or a foreign nation;

(iii) has not resigned the position of mayor to avoid having charges filed or to avoid prosecution by Federal, State or local law enforcement agencies;

(iv) has served as a mayor, whether continuously or not, by election for an aggregate of a full term in office; and

(v) is a resident of this Commonwealth.

(6) A minister, priest or rabbi of any regularly established church or congregation.

(b) Religious organizations.--Every religious society, religious institution or religious organization in this Commonwealth may join persons together in marriage when at least one of the persons is a member of the society, institution or organization, according to the rules and customs of the society, institution or organization.

(c) Marriage license needed to officiate.--No person or religious organization qualified to perform marriages shall officiate at a marriage ceremony without the parties having obtained a marriage license issued under this part.

#### **E. Prior Session** (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

HB 600 of 2023.

HB 485 of 2021.

HB 1966 of 2019.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1381 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY BOYD, McNEILL, RIVERA, HILL-EVANS, KINKEAD,  
HOWARD, WAXMAN, BURGOS, SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE, D. WILLIAMS AND  
HOHENSTEIN, JUNE 25, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 25, 2025

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juvenile matters,  
3 further providing for definitions.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. The definition of "delinquent child" in section  
7 6302 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is  
8 amended to read:

9 § 6302. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
11 shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the  
12 meanings given to them in this section:

13 \* \* \*

14 "Delinquent child." A child [ten] 13 years of age or older  
15 whom the court has found to have committed a delinquent act and  
16 is in need of treatment, supervision or rehabilitation.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 2. This act shall apply to proceedings that commence

1 or transfers that occur on or after the effective date of this  
2 section.

3 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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**Bill No:** HB1381 PN2029  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**Sponsor:** Boyd, Heather  
**Date:** 8/5/2025

**Prepared By:** Michelle Batt, Esq.  
(717) 705-1880,6792  
**Executive Director:** David Vitale, Esq.

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Raises the minimum age for when a youth can be tried in juvenile court from 10 to 13 years of age or older.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

This bill amends Title 42, Section 6302 (Definitions), modifying the definition of "Delinquent child" from ten to thirteen years of age or older.

#### **Effective Date:**

60 Days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

#### **42 Pa.C.S. § 6302. Definitions.**

"Delinquent child." A child ten years of age or older whom the court has found to have committed a delinquent act and is in need of treatment, supervision or rehabilitation.

### **E. Prior Session** (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

None.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1731 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY GUZMAN, WAXMAN, GIRAL AND D. WILLIAMS,  
JULY 14, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JULY 14, 2025

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AN ACT

1 Providing for consumer debt collection fairness.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Consumer Debt  
6 Collection Fairness Act.

7 Section 2. Legislative findings.

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Many debt collection lawsuits are filed without  
10 sufficient documentation of the underlying debt, resulting in  
11 default judgments against consumers who may not owe the debt.

12 (2) Pennsylvania consumers deserve clear notice and fair  
13 opportunity to contest debts alleged in court.

14 (3) Stronger protections, modeled after those in the  
15 State of New York, are necessary to prevent abusive debt  
16 collection practices and ensure integrity in court  
17 proceedings.

1 Section 3. Definitions.

2 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
3 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
4 context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Consumer debt." Any obligation or alleged obligation of a  
6 natural person to pay money arising out of a transaction in  
7 which the money, property or services are primarily for  
8 personal, family or household purposes.

9 "Debt buyer." A person or entity that is regularly engaged  
10 in the business of purchasing charged-off consumer debt for  
11 collection purposes.

12 Section 4. Required documentation for collection actions.

13 A debt collector or debt buyer may not commence a legal  
14 action to collect a consumer debt unless the complaint includes:

15 (1) The name of the original creditor and the last four  
16 digits of the original account number.

17 (2) An itemization of the amount owed, including:

18 (i) Charge-off balance.

19 (ii) Post-charge-off interest or fees.

20 (iii) Payments or credits applied.

21 (3) Proof of ownership of the debt, including a chain of  
22 title if the debt has been sold.

23 (4) A copy of the original contract or charge-off  
24 statement demonstrating the consumer's liability.

25 Section 5. Statute of limitations.

26 Any legal action to collect a consumer debt must be commenced  
27 within three years of the date of the last payment or charge by  
28 the consumer.

29 Section 6. Prohibition of default judgments without proof.

30 No court may enter a default judgment in a consumer debt

1 action unless the plaintiff files:

2 (1) An affidavit of facts based on personal knowledge.

3 (2) All required documentation under section 4.

4 (3) Proof that the consumer was properly served and  
5 notified of the consumer's rights.

6 Section 7. Notice to consumer.

7 Each consumer debt lawsuit must include a separate "Notice of  
8 Consumer Rights" stating:

9 (1) The consumer's right to dispute the debt.

10 (2) The right to request documentation.

11 (3) Where to seek legal help or assistance.

12 Section 8. Effective date.

13 This act shall take effect in 90 days.

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1731

Sponsor: **Briggs**

Printer's No. 2131

1 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 1 through 17; page 2, lines 1  
2 through 30; page 3, lines 1 through 13; by striking out all of  
3 said lines on said pages and inserting

4 Amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania  
5 Consolidated Statutes, in consumer credit, providing for  
6 consumer debt collection fairness.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Title 12 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
10 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

11 CHAPTER 65

12 CONSUMER DEBT COLLECTION FAIRNESS

13 Sec.

14 6501. Scope of chapter.

15 6502. Findings and declarations.

16 6503. Definitions.

17 6504. Required documentation for collection actions.

18 6505. Statute of limitations.

19 6506. Prohibition of default judgments without proof.

20 6507. Notice to consumer.

21 § 6501. Scope of chapter.

22 This chapter provides for consumer debt collection fairness.

23 § 6502. Findings and declarations.

24 The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) Many debt collection lawsuits are filed without  
26 sufficient documentation of the underlying debt, resulting in  
27 default judgments against consumers who may not owe the debt.

28 (2) Pennsylvania consumers deserve clear notice and fair  
29 opportunity to contest debts alleged in court.

30 (3) Stronger protections, modeled after those in the  
31 State of New York, are necessary to prevent abusive debt  
32 collection practices and ensure integrity in court  
33 proceedings.

34 § 6503. Definitions.

35 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
36 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
37 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Consumer debt." Any obligation or alleged obligation of a  
2 natural person to pay money arising out of a transaction in  
3 which the money, property or services are primarily for  
4 personal, family or household purposes.

5 "Debt buyer." A person or entity that is regularly engaged  
6 in the business of purchasing charged-off consumer debt for  
7 collection purposes.

8 § 6504. Required documentation for collection actions.

9 A debt collector or debt buyer may not commence a legal  
10 action to collect a consumer debt unless the complaint includes:

11 (1) The name of the original creditor and the last four  
12 digits of the original account number.

13 (2) An itemization of the amount owed, including:

14 (i) Charge-off balance.

15 (ii) Post-charge-off interest or fees.

16 (iii) Payments or credits applied.

17 (3) Proof of ownership of the debt, including a chain of  
18 title if the debt has been sold.

19 (4) A copy of the original contract or charge-off  
20 statement demonstrating the consumer's liability.

21 § 6505. Statute of limitations.

22 Any legal action to collect a consumer debt must be commenced  
23 within three years of the date of the last payment or charge by  
24 the consumer.

25 § 6506. Prohibition of default judgments without proof.

26 No court may enter a default judgment in a consumer debt  
27 action unless the plaintiff files:

28 (1) An affidavit of facts based on personal knowledge.

29 (2) All required documentation under section 6504  
30 (relating to required documentation for collection actions).

31 (3) Proof that the consumer was properly served and  
32 notified of the consumer's rights.

33 § 6507. Notice to consumer.

34 Each consumer debt lawsuit must include a separate "Notice of  
35 Consumer Rights" stating:

36 (1) The consumer's right to dispute the debt.

37 (2) The right to request documentation.

38 (3) Where to seek legal help or assistance.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 90 days.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB1731 PN2131	<b>Prepared By:</b>	David Vitale, Esq. (717) 705-7011,6791
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Guzman, Manuel		
<b>Date:</b>	8/25/2025		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Requires debt collectors and debt buyers to provide specific documentation when filing legal action, including proof of debt ownership, itemized balances, and original account details.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

A debt collector or debt buyer may not commence a legal action to collect a consumer debt unless the complaint includes:

1. The name of the original creditor and the last four digits of the original account number.
2. An itemization of the amount owed, including: (i) Charge-off balance. (ii) Post-charge-off interest or fees. (iii) Payments or credits applied.
3. Proof of ownership of the debt, including a chain of title if the debt has been sold.
4. A copy of the original contract or charge-off statement demonstrating the consumer's liability.

No court may enter a default judgment in a consumer debt action unless the plaintiff files an affidavit of facts based on personal knowledge, all required documentation, and proof the consumer was properly served and notified of their consumer rights. Legal actions to collect consumer debt must be commenced within three years of the date of the last payment or charge by the consumer.

Notice: Each consumer debt lawsuit must include a separate "Notice of Consumer Rights" stating:

1. The consumer's right to dispute the debt.
2. The right to request documentation.
3. Where to seek legal help or assistance.

#### Definitions:

"Consumer debt." Any obligation or alleged obligation of a natural person to pay money arising out of a transaction in which the money, property or services are primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

"Debt buyer." A person or entity that is regularly engaged in the business of purchasing charged-off consumer debt for collection purposes.

#### **Effective Date:**

90 Days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

None.

### **E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

None.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2033 Session of  
2025

---

INTRODUCED BY DAVIDSON, MADSEN, WAXMAN, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL,  
RIVERA, SANCHEZ, KHAN, HOHENSTEIN AND D. WILLIAMS,  
NOVEMBER 13, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in food protection, providing for correctional  
3 institutions; imposing duties on the Department of  
4 Agriculture; and promulgating regulations.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Chapter 57 of Title 3 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

9 SUBCHAPTER D

10 CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

11 Sec.

12 5750. Definitions.

13 5751. Health and safety requirements.

14 5752. Health and safety inspections.

15 5753. Rules and regulations.

16 5754. Construction of subchapter.

17 § 5750. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
2 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Correctional institution." A State correctional institution  
4 or a county correctional institution.

5 "County correctional institution." A correctional facility,  
6 prison or jail owned or operated by a county.

7 "Federal acts." As defined under section 5722 (relating to  
8 definitions).

9 "State correctional institution." A correctional facility,  
10 prison or jail owned or operated by the Commonwealth.

11 § 5751. Health and safety requirements.

12 Correctional institutions shall, at a minimum, develop and  
13 utilize local policies and procedures that are in keeping with  
14 existing State law and recognized professional standards,  
15 including the following requirements:

16 (1) Food shall be prepared and served in a sanitary  
17 manner.

18 (2) Food preparation areas and food distribution areas  
19 shall be maintained in a safe and clean condition at all  
20 times.

21 (3) Food shall be stored and prepared in a proper manner  
22 to ensure freshness and to prevent spoilage and damage from  
23 insects and rodents.

24 (4) Appropriate food service head cover, beard and  
25 facial hair cover and gloves shall be worn by staff, food  
26 service contractors and inmates engaged in food preparation  
27 or distribution or both.

28 (5) At least one supervisory food service employee shall  
29 be certified in food safety and sanitation in accordance with  
30 Chapter 65 (relating to food employee certification).

1       (6) A person in charge shall always be present during  
2 all hours of operations. If the person in charge is not  
3 certified, the person in charge shall receive documented  
4 training as to the food safety and sanitation procedures  
5 established by written local policy.

6       (7) Food handlers must wash their hands upon reporting  
7 to duty and after using toilet facilities.

8       (8) Eating and drinking utensils shall be cleaned,  
9 rinsed and sanitized before being reissued to another inmate.

10       (9) Food shall be served as promptly as possible and at  
11 the proper temperature.

12 § 5752. Health and safety inspections.

13       (a) Inspection.--The department shall have the power and  
14 duty to:

15           (1) Enter a correctional institution at reasonable  
16 times.

17           (2) Inspect the correctional institution at reasonable  
18 times, within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner.

19           (3) Obtain a sample of any food at a correctional  
20 institution for analysis as may be necessary to determine the  
21 safety of the food, water and kitchens and the compliance  
22 with the minimum health and safety requirements under section  
23 5751 (relating to health and safety requirements).

24       (b) Report of inspection.--

25           (1) Upon completion of an inspection of a correctional  
26 institution and prior to leaving the premises, the secretary  
27 shall provide to the person in charge a written report of the  
28 findings of the inspection.

29           (2) Inspection reports shall be published on the  
30 department's publicly accessible Internet website.

1 (c) Interagency coordination.--The department shall share  
2 inspection reports or test results that indicate human illness  
3 related to food consumption or food handling practices, or to  
4 other threats to the safety of the food supply, with the  
5 Department of Health, the Department of Environmental  
6 Protection, the Department of Corrections or any other  
7 Commonwealth agency as necessary to develop a comprehensive,  
8 coordinated interagency approach to protecting public health and  
9 safeguarding the food supply.

10 (d) Interagency compliance.--The Department of Corrections  
11 and county correctional administrators shall cooperate with  
12 inspections under this subchapter and provide any information  
13 requested by the department in relation to an inspection under  
14 this section.

15 § 5753. Rules and regulations.

16 (a) Nature of rules.--The secretary shall be charged with  
17 the enforcement of this subchapter and shall promulgate rules,  
18 regulations and food standards necessary for its proper  
19 enforcement. The rules, regulations and food standards shall  
20 conform and shall be construed to conform with the purposes  
21 expressed in section 5754 (relating to construction of  
22 subchapter).

23 (b) Adoption of Federal regulations.--All regulations  
24 adopted under the Federal acts that relate to food on, before or  
25 after the effective date of this subchapter are adopted as  
26 regulations in this Commonwealth and shall remain in effect  
27 unless subsequently modified or superseded by regulations  
28 promulgated by the secretary.

29 (c) Water standards.--If a correctional institution uses or  
30 supplies water for human consumption, the water shall be in

1 compliance with the primary and secondary Maximum Contaminant  
2 Levels, treatment techniques and Maximum Residual Disinfectant  
3 Levels required by the act of May 1, 1984 (P.L.206, No.43),  
4 known as the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act, and its  
5 attendant regulations.

6 § 5754. Construction of subchapter.

7 (a) Construction.--The provisions of this subchapter and the  
8 regulations promulgated under this subchapter shall be construed  
9 in a manner that is consistent with Federal acts and regulations  
10 promulgated under those acts. The secretary shall not ordain or  
11 enforce requirements relating to sanitation, food safety, food  
12 standards and labeling requirements of any kind or description  
13 other than those provided for in Federal acts unless the  
14 proposed regulation meets all of the following:

15 (1) is justified by compelling and unique local  
16 conditions;

17 (2) protects an important public interest that would  
18 otherwise be unprotected;

19 (3) relates to subject matter that is primarily local in  
20 nature and the Federal agency with responsibility over the  
21 subject matter is not exercising its jurisdiction with  
22 respect to the subject matter;

23 (4) would not cause a food to be in violation of any  
24 applicable requirements under a Federal act; and

25 (5) would not unduly burden interstate commerce.

26 (b) Secretary to participate in rulemaking.--The secretary  
27 is encouraged to participate in rulemaking under Federal acts  
28 and, if necessary, to pursue Federal rulemaking as is deemed  
29 necessary for the protection of the residents of this  
30 Commonwealth through the Federal petition and rulemaking

1 process.

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2033 PN2604	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Michelle Batt, Esq. (717) 705-1880,6792
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Davidson, Nathan; Madsen, Dave and; Waxman, Ben		
<b>Date:</b>	1/12/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Shifts responsibility for food and kitchen safety inspections in state and county correctional institutions from the PA Department of Corrections to the PA Department of Agriculture.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), Chapter 57 (Food Protection) to add Subchapter D (Correctional Institutions), establishing food and water safety requirements for state and county correctional institutions and requiring the Department of Agriculture to conduct inspections and publish publicly accessible reports.

Food Safety Requirements -- all correctional institutions must adhere to existing State law and recognized professional standards, including the following:

- (1) Food shall be prepared and served in a sanitary manner.
- (2) Food preparation areas and food distribution areas shall be maintained in a safe and clean condition at all times.
- (3) Food shall be stored and prepared in a proper manner to ensure freshness and to prevent spoilage and damage from insects and rodents.
- (4) Appropriate food service head cover, beard and facial hair cover and gloves shall be worn by staff, food service contractors and inmates engaged in food preparation or distribution or both.
- (5) At least one supervisory food service employee shall be certified in food safety and sanitation in accordance with Chapter 65 (relating to food employee certification).
- (6) A person in charge shall always be present during all hours of operations. If the person in charge is not certified, the person in charge shall receive documented training as to the food safety and sanitation procedures established by written local policy.
- (7) Food handlers must wash their hands upon reporting to duty and after using toilet facilities.
- (8) Eating and drinking utensils shall be cleaned, rinsed and sanitized before being reissued to another inmate.
- (9) Food shall be served as promptly as possible and at the proper temperature.

Water Safety Requirements -- any water used or supplied for human consumption in a correctional institution must be in compliance with the primary and secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels, treatment techniques and Maximum Residual Disinfectant Levels required

by the act of May 1, 1984 (P.L.206, No.43), known as the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act, and its attendant regulations.

**Effective Date:**

60 Days.

**G. Relevant Existing Laws**

COUNTY FACILITIES - Current food safety requirements for county correctional institutions are housed in Title 37 (Law), Chapter 95 (County Correctional Institutions), Section 95.230 (Food Services) of the Pennsylvania Code and the [Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Office of County Inspections and Services](#) is responsible for inspections. The relevant provision is as follows:

**§ 95.230. Food services.**

The following are the minimum requirements applicable to food services:

(1) Written local policy must specify that each inmate be provided a daily diet that is nutritionally adequate for the maintenance of good health. Written local policy must recognize dietary requirements for those inmates whose medical condition requires prescribed therapeutic attention, for those inmates whose religious beliefs require adherence to specified and approved religious dietary law and for those inmates under segregation or disciplinary status, or both, whose behavior requires a different meal consistency. Regular and alternative menus shall be approved and signed by a registered dietician or licensed physician, or both, and the prison administrator on an as needed basis, but no less than on an annual basis.

(2) Written local policy must provide that food is prepared and served in a sanitary manner. The prison food preparation areas and food distribution areas shall be maintained in a safe and clean condition at all times. Food shall be stored and prepared in a proper manner to assure freshness and to prevent spoilage and damage from insects and rodents. Appropriate food service head cover, beard/facial hair cover and gloves shall be worn by staff, food service contractor and inmates engaged in food preparation or distribution, or both. Written local policy must require that one supervisory food service employe become certified in food safety and sanitation in accordance with 3 Pa.C.S. § § 6501—6510 (relating to food employee certification). There shall always be a “person in charge” present during all hours of operations. If the “person in charge” is not certified, that person shall receive documented training as to the food safety and sanitation procedures as established by written local policy.

(3) Written local policy must provide for the control and use of culinary equipment. All culinary equipment shall be identified and accounted for on an inventory list. In addition, cutlery items shall be documented as to being checked in and out, to control use at all times. When not in use, cutlery shall be stored in a secure manner.

(4) Written local policy must establish preassignment and periodic medical clearance for staff, food service contractor and inmate food service workers. Food handlers shall wash their hands upon reporting to duty and after using toilet facilities.

(5) Written local policy must identify the methods available to clean, rinse and sanitize prison-issued eating and drinking utensils at least weekly. These eating and drinking utensils shall be cleaned, rinsed and sanitized before being reissued to another inmate.

(6) Written local policy must provide that compartmented trays, plastic ware and paper products be utilized to serve the food. More than one type of food may not be served in a noncompartmented container during normal feeding operations. Food shall be served as promptly as possible, at the proper temperature.

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STATE FACILITIES - The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Food Services Office is responsible for food safety at state correctional institutions. The relevant DOC Policy, [#DC-ADM](#)

[610](#), effectuated on December 28, 2016, in relevant part, establishes Food Services policies and procedures; directs the Food Services Office to comply with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Code; provides the authority for inspections and audits to ensure that all DOC food service facilities, workforces, and equipment meet or exceed established government food, health, and safety codes, directs the office to manage and monitor compliance and effectiveness of food service contracts; and provides guidance and direction to Department staff to assist with resolution of food service matters.

**E. Prior Session** (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)

None.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2136 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY KINKEAD, HILL-EVANS, WAXMAN, RIVERA, McNEILL,  
KHAN, SANCHEZ, WARREN, HOHENSTEIN, D. WILLIAMS, RABB,  
SALISBURY, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, SCHWEYER, MADDEN AND MAYES,  
JANUARY 13, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 13, 2026

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in medical services, providing for  
3 diagnoses prior to incarceration.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 61 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 3304.1. Diagnoses prior to incarceration.

9 (a) Prohibition.--Except as provided for under subsection

10 (b), the department may not in any manner remove or refuse to  
11 recognize a diagnosis for any medical condition made by a health

12 care practitioner as defined under section 103 of the act of

13 July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care

14 Facilities Act, prior to the incarceration of the individual.

15 (b) Exception.--The health care practitioner who made the

16 diagnosis, or a health care practitioner with medical expertise

17 on the diagnosed medical condition in question who is not

1 employed by or affiliated with the department, may provide to  
2 the department a written statement recommending the removal of a  
3 diagnosis made prior to the incarceration of the individual.  
4 Upon receipt of the written statement, the department may remove  
5 the diagnosis of the medical condition in question.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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**Bill No:** HB2136 PN2761  
**Committee:** Judiciary  
**Sponsor:** Kinkead, Emily  
**Date:** 3/3/2026

**Prepared By:** David Vitale, Esq.  
(717) 705-7011,6791  
**Executive Director:** David Vitale, Esq.

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Prohibits the Department of Corrections from removing or refusing to recognize an incarcerated individual's prior diagnosis for any medical condition.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

Adds § 3304.1 (Diagnoses prior to incarceration) to Title 61 to prohibit the DOC from removing or refusing to recognize an incarcerated individual's prior diagnosis for any medical condition.

The Department may not in any manner remove or refuse to recognize a diagnosis for any medical condition made by a health care practitioner prior to the incarceration of the individual.

#### **Exception:**

The health care practitioner who made the diagnosis, or a health care practitioner with medical expertise on the diagnosed medical condition in question who is not employed by or affiliated with the department, may provide to the department a written statement recommending the removal of a diagnosis made prior to the incarceration of the individual. Upon receipt of the written statement, the department may remove the diagnosis of the medical condition in question.

#### **Effective Date:**

60 Days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

None.

### **E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

None.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2281 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, KINKEAD,  
WEBSTER, RIVERA, McNEILL, D. WILLIAMS AND CEPEDA-FREYTIZ,  
MARCH 11, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 12, 2026

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juries and jurors,  
3 further providing for qualifications of jurors.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 4502(a)(3) of Title 42 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 4502. Qualifications of jurors.

9 (a) General rule.--Every citizen of this Commonwealth who is  
10 of the required minimum age for voting for State or local  
11 officials and who resides in the county shall be qualified to  
12 serve as a juror therein unless such citizen:

13 \* \* \*

14 (3) [has been convicted of] is serving a sentence for a  
15 crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year [and  
16 has not been granted a pardon or amnesty therefor].

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2281

Sponsor: **Briggs**

Printer's No. 2987

- 1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 14, by inserting after "sentence"
- 2 , including a term of probation or parole,

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2281 PN2987	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Michelle Batt, Esq. (717) 705-1880,6792
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Briggs, Tim		
<b>Date:</b>	5/6/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Allows people with prior convictions to serve as jurors, while still prohibiting individuals currently serving a sentence from serving on a jury.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

Allows people with prior convictions to serve as jurors, while still prohibiting individuals currently serving a sentence from serving on a jury. Currently people convicted of an offense punishable by more than one year imprisonment are NOT eligible to serve on a jury (criminal or civil case).

#### **Effective Date:**

60 Days.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

42 Pa.C.S. 4502, qualifications of jurors, provides:

(a) General rule. Every citizen of this Commonwealth who is of the required minimum age for voting for State or local officials and who resides in the county shall be qualified to serve as a juror therein unless such citizen:

- (1) is unable to read, write, speak and understand the English language;
- (2) is incapable, by reason of mental or physical infirmity, to render efficient jury service;

or

(3) has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year and has not been granted a pardon or amnesty therefor.

(b) Definition.--For purposes of this section, "convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year" does not include a conviction for any offense under or violation of the former act of May 1, 1929 (P.L.905, No.403), known as The Vehicle Code, or the former act of April 29, 1959 (P.L.58, No.32), known as The Vehicle Code, which offense or violation, if it had been committed after July 1, 1977: (1) would have been substantially similar to an offense currently graded as a summary offense under 75 Pa.C.S. (relating to vehicles); or (2) would not have been a violation of law.

### **E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

None.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2344 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, CONKLIN, MIHALEK AND JAMES,  
MARCH 31, 2026

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 31, 2026

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for protections against  
3 coerced debt; and imposing duties on the Treasury Department.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Part IV of Title 12 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 59

9 PROTECTIONS AGAINST COERCED DEBT

10 Sec.

11 5901. Scope of chapter.

12 5902. Definitions.

13 5903. Petition.

14 5904. Notice of dispute.

15 5905. Amended petition.

16 5906. Determination.

17 5907. Cause of action.

18 § 5901. Scope of chapter.

1 This chapter relates to protections against and disputes  
2 involving coerced debt.

3 § 5902. Definitions.

4 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
6 context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Coerced debt." A debt or portion of a debt that was  
8 incurred because of a domestic violence offense, fraud, duress,  
9 intimidation, threat, force, coercion, manipulation, undue  
10 influence, misinformation or the nonconsensual use of the  
11 debtor's personal identifying information.

12 "Creditor."

13 (1) A person to whom a debt is owed or alleged to be  
14 owed.

15 (2) The term includes:

16 (i) An agent, servant, employee or other  
17 representative of the person described under paragraph  
18 (1), conducting business under the name of the person and  
19 within this Commonwealth.

20 (ii) A third party utilized by the person described  
21 under paragraph (1) for the collection of the debt owed  
22 or alleged to be owed.

23 "Debt."

24 (1) An obligation or an alleged obligation to pay money  
25 or other consideration.

26 (2) The term does not include debt secured by real  
27 property.

28 "Debtor." An individual who owes or who is alleged to owe a  
29 debt.

30 "Department." The Treasury Department of the Commonwealth.

1 "Domestic violence offense." Any of the following offenses  
2 under 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to crimes and offenses) if committed  
3 against a family or household member:

4 (1) Chapter 27 (relating to assault).

5 (2) Section 2902 (relating to unlawful restraint).

6 (3) Section 2903 (relating to false imprisonment).

7 (4) Chapter 30 (relating to human trafficking).

8 (5) Chapter 31 (relating to sexual offenses).

9 (6) Section 4302 (relating to incest).

10 (7) Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of  
11 children).

12 (8) Section 5902(b.1) (relating to prostitution and  
13 related offenses).

14 (9) Section 6301(a)(1)(ii) (relating to corruption of  
15 minors).

16 (10) Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of  
17 children).

18 (11) Section 6318 (relating to unlawful contact with  
19 minor).

20 (12) Section 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of  
21 children).

22 "Family or household member." Any of the following:

23 (1) A spouse or individual who has been a spouse.

24 (2) An individual living as a spouse or who lived as a  
25 spouse.

26 (3) A parent.

27 (4) A child.

28 (5) An individual related by consanguinity or affinity.

29 (6) A current or former sexual or intimate partner.

30 (7) An individual who shares biological parenthood.

1 "Perpetrator of coerced debt." An individual who caused or  
2 is alleged to have caused coerced debt to be incurred by another  
3 individual.

4 "Petition." The coerced debt dispute petition developed  
5 under section 5903(a) (relating to petition).

6 "Qualified third party." Any of the following:

7 (1) A law enforcement officer.

8 (2) A physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist,  
9 psychologist, social worker, nurse, therapist or clinical  
10 professional counselor, if licensed or certified to practice  
11 within this Commonwealth.

12 (3) An individual who advises or provides services to  
13 other individuals regarding domestic violence, family  
14 violence, human trafficking or abuse of children, the elderly  
15 or dependent adults.

16 (4) A member of the clergy of a church, religious  
17 society or denomination.

18 § 5903. Petition.

19 (a) Development.--The department shall develop a coerced  
20 debt dispute petition to be used by a debtor to dispute a debt  
21 as coerced debt.

22 (b) Contents.--The petition must include:

23 (1) Information about the debt or portion thereof to  
24 allow a creditor to identify the account associated with the  
25 debt.

26 (2) Either of the following:

27 (i) A statement that the debtor did not willingly  
28 authorize the use of the debtor's name, account or  
29 personal information for incurring the debt or portion  
30 thereof.

1           (ii) A claim that the debt or portion thereof is a  
2           coerced debt.

3           (3) Facts describing how the debt was incurred, if known  
4           by the debtor.

5           (4) Documentation from a qualified third party providing  
6           evidence of the coerced debt.

7           (5) The debtor's preferred contact method and  
8           information, which may include telephone number, email  
9           address, physical address or safe address for the debtor or a  
10          third party whom the debtor designates to receive information  
11          about the coerced debt.

12          (6) The full name of the alleged perpetrator of coerced  
13          debt and any available contact information.

14          (7) Any other information that the department deems  
15          reasonably necessary.

16          (c) Posting.--The department shall post the petition on its  
17          publicly accessible Internet website.

18          § 5904. Notice of dispute.

19          A debtor seeking to dispute an alleged coerced debt shall  
20          complete a petition and send it to the creditor.

21          § 5905. Amended petition.

22          (a) Authorization.--If, after receiving a petition, the  
23          creditor determines that the petition is incomplete or that more  
24          information is required for the creditor to make a good faith  
25          effort to resolve the alleged coerced debt matter, the creditor  
26          shall request an amended petition from the debtor by using the  
27          preferred contact method contained in the petition.

28          (b) Time frame.--The request for an amended petition must be  
29          made no later than 10 business days after receipt of the  
30          petition.

1 § 5906. Determination.

2 (a) Determination generally.--Within 10 business days of  
3 receipt of a petition or an amended petition, the creditor shall  
4 make a good faith determination of whether the challenged debt  
5 qualifies as coerced debt.

6 (b) Notice.--The creditor shall notify the debtor of its  
7 determination under this section by using the preferred contact  
8 method contained in the petition or amended petition.

9 (c) Determination of coerced debt.--If the creditor  
10 determines that the debt described in the petition or amended  
11 petition qualifies, in whole or in part, as coerced debt, the  
12 creditor shall:

13 (1) Cease all attempts to collect the coerced debt from  
14 the debtor.

15 (2) Unless the debtor is the perpetrator of coerced  
16 debt:

17 (i) refrain from commencing an action against the  
18 debtor to collect the coerced debt; or

19 (ii) if a collection action has already been  
20 commenced against the debtor, seek the dismissal of the  
21 action.

22 (3) Cease all garnishment of money from the debtor.

23 (4) Return to the debtor any payments that were made by  
24 the debtor or received as part of a garnishment of money from  
25 the debtor on the coerced debt.

26 (5) Notify the debtor that it is ceasing all attempts to  
27 collect the debt from the debtor based on the debtor's claim  
28 of coerced debt.

29 (6) Contact each consumer reporting agency to which the  
30 creditor furnished information about the debtor and the

1 coerced debt and request that the consumer reporting agency  
2 delete the information.

3 (7) If the creditor does not own the debt and is  
4 collecting the debt for another, the creditor shall notify  
5 the owner of the debt that it has ceased collection  
6 activities against the debtor because the debt is coerced  
7 debt.

8 (d) Determination that debt is not coerced debt.--If the  
9 creditor determines that the debt described in the petition or  
10 amended petition does not qualify, in whole or in part, as  
11 coerced debt, the creditor shall inform the debtor of:

12 (1) The reasons why the creditor believes the debt does  
13 not qualify as coerced debt.

14 (2) The right to challenge the determination as provided  
15 under section 5907 (relating to cause of action).

16 § 5907. Cause of action.

17 (a) Commencement of action.--If the creditor determines in  
18 accordance with section 5906 (relating to determination) that  
19 debt does not qualify, in whole or in part, as coerced debt, the  
20 debtor may, no later than two years after receiving the  
21 determination from the creditor, commence an action in a court  
22 of competent jurisdiction to challenge the determination.

23 (b) Court determination.--

24 (1) If the court determines that the debt is coerced  
25 debt, the court shall order that the actions described in  
26 section 5906(c) be taken and may order other appropriate  
27 relief, including attorney fees.

28 (2) If the court determines that the debt is coerced  
29 debt and an individual is determined to be the perpetrator of  
30 coerced debt, the court shall order the individual to pay the

1 debt and may order other appropriate relief, including  
2 attorney fees.

3 (c) If a creditor approves the petition or amended petition  
4 under section 5906, the creditor may, no later than two years  
5 after making the determination, commence an action in a court of  
6 competent jurisdiction to collect the debt owed by the  
7 perpetrator of coerced debt.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 90 days.

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2344

Sponsor: **Kauffman**

Printer's No. 3117

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 3, by striking out "Treasury

2 Department." and inserting

3 Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

4 Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 6 and 7

5 "Administrative office." The Administrative Office of  
6 Pennsylvania Courts.

7 Amend Bill, page 2, line 30, by striking out all of said line

8 Amend Bill, page 4, line 19, by striking out "department

9 shall" and inserting

10 administrative office may

11 Amend Bill, page 4, line 22, by striking out "must" and

12 inserting

13 may

14 Amend Bill, page 5, line 14, by striking out "department" and

15 inserting

16 administrative office

17 Amend Bill, page 5, line 16, by striking out "department

18 shall" and inserting

19 administrative office may

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2344 PN3117	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Marissa Itterly (717) 705-1880
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Ortitay, Jason		
<b>Date:</b>	6/3/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Provides a legal remedy for individuals who are victims of coerced debt.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

The bill amends Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to create Chapter 59 (Protections Against Coerced Debt). The chapter relates to protections against and disputes involving coerced debt.

#### **§ 5902. Definitions**

"Coerced debt." A debt or portion of a debt that was incurred because of a domestic violence offense, fraud, duress, intimidation, threat, force, coercion, manipulation, undue influence, misinformation or the nonconsensual use of the debtor's personal identifying information.

"Creditor."

- (1) A person to whom a debt is owed or alleged to be owed.
- (2) The term includes:

(i) An agent, servant, employee or other representative of the person described under paragraph (1), conducting business under the name of the person and within this Commonwealth.

(ii) A third party utilized by the person described under paragraph (1) for the collection of the debt owed or alleged to be owed.

"Debt."

- (1) An obligation or an alleged obligation to pay money or other consideration.
- (2) The term does not include debt secured by real property.

"Debtor." An individual who owes or who is alleged to owe a debt.

"Department." The Treasury Department of the Commonwealth.

"Domestic violence offense." Any of the following offenses under 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to crimes and offenses) if committed against a family or household member:

- (1) Chapter 27 (relating to assault).
- (2) Section 2902 (relating to unlawful restraint).
- (3) Section 2903 (relating to false imprisonment).
- (4) Chapter 30 (relating to human trafficking).
- (5) Chapter 31 (relating to sexual offenses).

- (6) Section 4302 (relating to incest).
- (7) Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of children).
- (8) Section 5902(b.1) (relating to prostitution and related offenses).
- (9) Section 6301(a)(1)(ii) (relating to corruption of minors).
- (10) Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children).
- (11) Section 6318 (relating to unlawful contact with minor).
- (12) Section 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of children).

"Family or household member." Any of the following:

- (1) A spouse or individual who has been a spouse.
- (2) An individual living as a spouse or who lived as a spouse.
- (3) A parent.
- (4) A child.
- (5) An individual related by consanguinity or affinity.
- (6) A current or former sexual or intimate partner.
- (7) An individual who shares biological parenthood.

"Perpetrator of coerced debt." An individual who caused or is alleged to have caused coerced debt to be incurred by another individual.

"Petition." The coerced debt dispute petition developed under section 5903(a) (relating to petition).

"Qualified third party." Any of the following:

- (1) A law enforcement officer.
- (2) A physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, nurse, therapist or clinical professional counselor, if licensed or certified to practice within this Commonwealth.
- (3) An individual who advises or provides services to other individuals regarding domestic violence, family violence, human trafficking or abuse of children, the elderly or dependent adults.
- (4) A member of the clergy of a church, religious society or denomination.

### **§ 5903. Petition.**

(a) Development.--The department shall develop a coerced debt dispute petition to be used by a debtor to dispute a debt as coerced debt.

(b) Contents.--The petition must include:

(1) Information about the debt or portion thereof to allow a creditor to identify the account associated with the debt.

(2) Either of the following:

(i) A statement that the debtor did not willingly authorize the use of the debtor's name, account or personal information for incurring the debt or portion thereof.

- (ii) A claim that the debt or portion thereof is a coerced debt.
  - (3) Facts describing how the debt was incurred, if known by the debtor.
  - (4) Documentation from a qualified third party providing evidence of the coerced debt.
  - (5) The debtor's preferred contact method and information, which may include telephone number, email address, physical address or safe address for the debtor or a third party whom the debtor designates to receive information about the coerced debt.
  - (6) The full name of the alleged perpetrator of coerced debt and any available contact information.
  - (7) Any other information that the department deems reasonably necessary.
- (c) Posting.--The department shall post the petition on its publicly accessible Internet website.

**§ 5904. Notice of dispute.**

A debtor seeking to dispute an alleged coerced debt shall complete a petition and send it to the creditor.

**§ 5905. Amended petition.**

- (a) Authorization.--If, after receiving a petition, the creditor determines that the petition is incomplete or that more information is required for the creditor to make a good faith effort to resolve the alleged coerced debt matter, the creditor shall request an amended petition from the debtor by using the preferred contact method contained in the petition.
- (b) Time frame.--The request for an amended petition must be made no later than 10 business days after receipt of the petition.

**§ 5906. Determination.**

- (a) Determination generally.--Within 10 business days of receipt of a petition or an amended petition, the creditor shall make a good faith determination of whether the challenged debt qualifies as coerced debt.
- (b) Notice.--The creditor shall notify the debtor of its determination under this section by using the preferred contact method contained in the petition or amended petition.
- (c) Determination of coerced debt.--If the creditor determines that the debt described in the petition or amended petition qualifies, in whole or in part, as coerced debt, the creditor shall:
  - (1) Cease all attempts to collect the coerced debt from the debtor.
  - (2) Unless the debtor is the perpetrator of coerced debt:
    - (i) refrain from commencing an action against the debtor to collect the coerced debt; or
    - (ii) if a collection action has already been commenced against the debtor, seek the dismissal of the action.
  - (3) Cease all garnishment of money from the debtor.
  - (4) Return to the debtor any payments that were made by the debtor or received as part of a garnishment of money from the debtor on the coerced debt.

(5) Notify the debtor that it is ceasing all attempts to collect the debt from the debtor based on the debtor's claim of coerced debt.

(6) Contact each consumer reporting agency to which the creditor furnished information about the debtor and the coerced debt and request that the consumer reporting agency delete the information.

(7) If the creditor does not own the debt and is collecting the debt for another, the creditor shall notify the owner of the debt that it has ceased collection activities against the debtor because the debt is coerced debt.

(d) Determination that debt is not coerced debt.--If the creditor determines that the debt described in the petition or amended petition does not qualify, in whole or in part, as coerced debt, the creditor shall inform the debtor of:

(1) The reasons why the creditor believes the debt does not qualify as coerced debt.

(2) The right to challenge the determination as provided under section 5907 (relating to cause of action).

### **§ 5907. Cause of action.**

(a) Commencement of action.--If the creditor determines in accordance with section 5906 (relating to determination) that debt does not qualify, in whole or in part, as coerced debt, the debtor may, no later than two years after receiving the determination from the creditor, commence an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to challenge the determination.

(b) Court determination.--

(1) If the court determines that the debt is coerced

debt, the court shall order that the actions described in section 5906(c) be taken and may order other appropriate relief, including attorney fees.

(2) If the court determines that the debt is coerced debt and an individual is determined to be the perpetrator of coerced debt, the court shall order the individual to pay the debt and may order other appropriate relief, including attorney fees.

(c) If a creditor approves the petition or amended petition under section 5906, the creditor may, no later than two years after making the determination, commence an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to collect the debt owed by the perpetrator of coerced debt.

### **Effective Date:**

90 Days.

## **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

### **Title 12 (Commerce and Trade)**

### **PART IV. COMMERCIAL PROTECTION**

### **Chapter 51. Voidable Transactions**

§ 5101. Short title of chapter and definitions.

§ 5102. Insolvency.

§ 5103. Value.

§ 5104. Transfer or obligation voidable as to present or future creditor.

- § 5105. Transfer or obligation voidable as to present creditor.
- § 5106. When transfer is made or obligation is incurred.
- § 5107. Remedies of creditor.
- § 5108. Defenses, liability and protection of transferee or obligee.
- § 5109. Extinguishment of claim for relief.
- § 5110. Governing law.
- § 5111. Application to series organization.
- § 5112. Supplementary provisions.
- § 5113. Uniformity of application and construction.
- § 5114. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

### **Chapter 53. Trade Secrets**

- § 5301. Short title of chapter.
- § 5302. Definitions.
- § 5303. Injunctive relief.
- § 5304. Damages.
- § 5305. Attorney fees.
- § 5306. Preservation of secrecy.
- § 5307. Statute of limitations.
- § 5308. Effect on other law.

### **Chapter 55. Legitimate Cannabis-related Business**

- § 5501. Scope of chapter.
- § 5502. Definitions.
- § 5503. Services to legitimate cannabis-related businesses.
- § 5504. Protections for financial institutions, insurers, legitimate cannabis-related businesses and business associates.
- § 5505. Access to information.
- § 5506. Required disclosures.
- § 5507. Regulations and statements of policy.

### **Chapter 56. Self-service Storage Facilities**

- § 5601. Scope of chapter.
- § 5602. Definitions.
- § 5603. Residential purposes prohibited.
- § 5604. Access by owner.
- § 5605. Owner's lien.

- § 5606. Enforcement of owner's lien.
- § 5607. Notice of default to occupant.
- § 5608. Advertisement of sale.
- § 5609. Location of sale.
- § 5610. Payment and satisfaction.
- § 5611. Conformance with notice.
- § 5612. Title to goods purchased.
- § 5613. Right of owner to purchase.
- § 5614. Excess balance from sale.
- § 5615. Care, custody and control.
- § 5616. Limitation on liability of owner.
- § 5617. Effect of unsigned rental agreement.
- § 5618. Termination or nonrenewal of rental agreement.
- § 5619. Construction of chapter.

**Chapter 57. Incentive-based Savings Program**

- § 5701. Legislative intent.
- § 5702. Definitions.
- § 5703. Savings promotion program.
- § 5704. Compliance with Federal regulations.
- § 5705. Qualified financial program.
- § 5706. Terms and conditions.
- § 5707. Maintenance of books and records.

**E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

None.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2035 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY METZGAR, BURGOS, JAMES AND CEPEDA-FREYTIZ,  
NOVEMBER 14, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 11, 1967 (P.L.205, No.69), entitled  
2 "An act to validate conveyances and other instruments which  
3 have been defectively acknowledged," extending the date for  
4 validation of certain conveyances and other instruments.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of August 11, 1967 (P.L.205,  
8 No.69), entitled "An act to validate conveyances and other  
9 instruments which have been defectively acknowledged," is  
10 amended to read:

11 Section 1. No grant, bargain and sale, feoffment, deed of  
12 conveyance, release, assignment, mortgage or other assurance of  
13 lands, tenements and hereditaments, whatsoever, bearing date  
14 prior to the year two thousand [~~thirteen~~] twenty, made, executed  
15 and delivered by husband and wife, or by any person or trustee  
16 or attorney in fact for any other person or persons, to a bona  
17 fide purchaser or purchasers for a valuable consideration, and  
18 acknowledged before any officer duly authorized by law to take  
19 such acknowledgment, shall be deemed, held or adjudged invalid

1 or defective or insufficient in law by reason of any informality  
2 or defect in such acknowledgment as not being made according to  
3 law, or because the date of the acknowledgment predates the date  
4 of the instrument, or by reason of the acknowledgment thereto  
5 having been made by any trustee or attorney in fact in his  
6 individual capacity instead of as such trustee or attorney in  
7 fact; but all and every such grant, bargain and sale, feoffment,  
8 deed of conveyance, release, assignment, mortgage or other  
9 assurance, so made, executed and acknowledged, as aforesaid,  
10 shall be as good, valid and effectual in law for transferring,  
11 passing and conveying the estate, right, title and interest of  
12 such husband and wife of, in and to the lands, tenements and  
13 hereditaments mentioned in the same, as if all the requisites  
14 and particulars of such acknowledgment had been made according  
15 to law, and as if such trustee or attorney in fact had made the  
16 acknowledgment thereto in such capacity; and the record of the  
17 same duly made in the proper office for recording of deeds in  
18 this Commonwealth, and exemplifications of the same duly  
19 certified, shall be legal evidence in all cases in which the  
20 original would be competent evidence.

21 Section 2. The amendment of section 1 of the act shall not  
22 apply to lawsuits pending on the effective date of this section  
23 and which are undetermined.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026, or in  
25 60 days, whichever is later.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	HB2035 PN2605	<b>Prepared By:</b>	David Vitale, Esq. (717) 705-1880, 6792
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Metzgar, Carl		
<b>Date:</b>	2/27/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Validates conveyances and other instruments dated prior to 2020 which have acknowledgments containing technical errors.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

This bill amends Section 1 of Act 69 of 1967 (Validating conveyances defectively acknowledged) to validate conveyances and other instruments dated before 2020 which have been defectively acknowledged.

It applies to bona fide purchasers for value so as not to invalidate otherwise valid conveyances which simply contain a defect in acknowledgment.

Prior legislation (Act 24 of 2013) similarly validated conveyances with these errors or defects prior to 2013. This bill simply validates technical errors in acknowledgments executed before 2020.

The bill will not apply to pending or undetermined lawsuits.

#### **Effective Date:**

January 1, 2026, or in 60 days whichever is later.

### **G. Relevant Existing Laws**

In 1967, the General Assembly enacted Act 69 which validated conveyances (i.e., deeds, mortgages) executed prior to a certain date even if those conveyances contained technical errors in an acknowledgement.

The General Assembly has updated Act 69 in this way several times, including in *1997*, *2005* and *2013*.

### **E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

HB 1003 of 2021, passed the House 201-0 on June 24, 2021.

Last session this bill was introduced as HB 1292 and passed the full House on September 17, 2020, by a vote of 202-0.

The last update of this Act was in 2013, which validated conveyances made prior to 2013. That bill (SB 419) passed the House 196-0 and the Senate 48-0.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1293 Session of  
2026

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INTRODUCED BY J. WARD, PHILLIPS-HILL, K. WARD, BAKER, BROOKS,  
BARTOLOTTA, PENNYCUICK, BROWN, CULVER, KEEFER, ROTHMAN,  
MASTRIANO, LANGERHOLC, HUTCHINSON, MARTIN, STEFANO, DUSH AND  
FARRY, APRIL 17, 2026

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 17, 2026

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AN ACT

1 Providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher  
2 education and public school entities to be expressly  
3 designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of  
4 action for harm suffered by designation.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Fairness in  
9 Women's Sports Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Public institution of higher education." One of the  
15 following:

16 (1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A of  
17 the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the  
18 Public School Code of 1949.

1 (2) A rural regional college established under Article  
2 XIX-G of the Public School Code of 1949.

3 (3) An university within the State System of Higher  
4 Education under Article XX-A of the Public School Code of  
5 1949.

6 (4) A State-related institution as defined in section  
7 2001-C of the Public School Code of 1949.

8 (5) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

9 (6) The Pennsylvania College of Technology.

10 "Public school entity." One of the following operating under  
11 the Public School Code of 1949:

12 (1) A school district.

13 (2) An intermediate unit.

14 (3) An area career and technical school.

15 (4) A charter school, regional charter school or cyber  
16 charter school.

17 "Sex." A person's immutable characteristics of the  
18 reproductive system that define the individual as male or  
19 female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the  
20 time of birth.

21 Section 3. Designation of athletic teams and sports.

22 (a) Designation.--Interscholastic, intercollegiate,  
23 intramural or club athletic teams or sports that are sponsored  
24 by a public school entity, a public institution of higher  
25 education or any school or institution where students or teams  
26 compete against a public school entity or public institution of  
27 higher education must be expressly designated as one of the  
28 following based on sex:

29 (1) Male, men or boys.

30 (2) Female, women or girls.

1 (3) Coed or mixed.

2 (b) Prohibition.--Athletic teams or sports designated for  
3 females, women or girls under subsection (a)(2) may not be open  
4 to students of the male sex.

5 (c) Limitations on restriction.--Nothing in this section  
6 shall be construed to restrict the eligibility of a student to  
7 participate in an interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural  
8 or club athletic team or sport designed for the student's sex or  
9 designated coed or mixed.

10 Section 4. Protection for educational institutions.

11 A government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or  
12 an athletic association or organization may not entertain a  
13 complaint, open an investigation or take any other adverse  
14 action against a school or institution of higher education for  
15 maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate,  
16 intramural or club athletic teams or sports for students of the  
17 female sex.

18 Section 5. Cause of action.

19 (a) Deprivation of opportunity.--A student who is deprived  
20 of an athletic opportunity or who suffers a direct or indirect  
21 harm as a result of a known violation of section 3 may bring a  
22 cause of action for injunctive relief; damages; psychological,  
23 emotional and physical harm suffered; attorney fees and costs  
24 and any other relief available under law against the school or  
25 institution of higher education.

26 (b) Retaliation.--A student who is subject to retaliation or  
27 other adverse action by a school, institution of higher  
28 education or athletic association or organization as a result of  
29 reporting a violation of section 3 to an employee or  
30 representative of the school, institution or athletic

1 association or organization or to any Federal or State agency  
2 with oversight of schools or institutions of higher education in  
3 Pennsylvania may bring a cause of action for injunctive relief,  
4 damages, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available  
5 under law against the school, institution or athletic  
6 association or organization.

7 (c) School's cause of action.--A school or institution of  
8 higher education that suffers a direct or indirect harm as a  
9 result of a violation of section 4 may bring a cause of action  
10 for injunctive relief, damages and any other relief available  
11 under law against the government entity, licensing or  
12 accrediting organization or athletic association or  
13 organization.

14 (d) Limitation.--A person may not bring a civil action under  
15 this section later than two years after the day on which the  
16 harm underlying the cause of action occurs.

17 Section 6. Severability.

18 If a part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that  
19 are severable from the invalid part shall remain in effect. If a  
20 part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications,  
21 the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are  
22 severable from the invalid applications.

23 Section 7. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect in 60 days.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	SB1293 PN1598	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jacob Heintzelman (717) 787-9516
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Ward, Judy		
<b>Date:</b>	6/9/2026		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Creates a free-standing act that deals exclusively with educational institutions and how they supervise students.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

Creates a freestanding Act requiring sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public schools to expressly designated sex of students.

#### **Designation of Athletic Teams:**

- An interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport which is sponsored by a public-school entity, a public institution of higher education or any school or institution where students or teams compete against a public-school entity or public institution of higher education must designate which sex may participant in the sports activity.

#### **Prohibition:**

- An athletic team or sport designated for females, women or girls may not be open to students who identify as another sex.

#### **Protection for Educational Institutions:**

- A government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or an athletic association is immune from responsibility if they discriminate against a student/child under this Act.

#### **Cause of Action:**

- ***Deprivation of Opportunity:***
  - A student who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or who suffers a direct or indirect harm because of a violation may bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, psychological, emotional, and physical harm suffered, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available under law against the school or institution of higher education.
- ***Retaliation:***
  - A student who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, institution of higher education or athletic association or organization as a result of reporting a violation of this act to an employee or representative of the school, institution or athletic association or to any Federal or State agency with oversight of schools or institutions of higher education may bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available under law against the school, institution or athletic association.
- ***School's Cause of Action:***
  - A school or institution of higher education that suffers a direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation of this act may bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages and any other relief available under law against the government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or athletic association or organization.

**Limitation:**

- A person may not bring a civil action under this section later than two years after the day on which the harm underlying the cause of action occurs.

**Severability:**

- If a part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part will remain in effect.

**Terms:**

- Public institution of higher education: One of the following:
  - Community college operating under Article XIX-A.
  - Rural regional college established under Article XIX-G of the Public-School Code of 1949.
  - University within the State System of Higher Education under Article XX-A of the Public-School Code of 1949.
  - State-related institution as defined in section 2001-C of the Public-School Code of 1949.
  - Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.
  - Pennsylvania College of Technology.
- Public school entity: One of the following operating under the Public-School Code of 1949:
  - School district.
  - Intermediate unit.
  - Area career and technical school.
  - Charter school, regional charter school, or cyber charter school.
- Sex: A person's immutable characteristics of the reproductive system that define the individual as male or female, as determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

**Effective Date:**

60 Days.

**G. Relevant Existing Laws**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in all education programs and activities operated by recipients of federal funds, including colleges, universities, and public school districts. Title IX regulations also contains specific provisions governing athletic programs and the awarding of athletic scholarships. Specifically, if an institution operates or sponsors an athletic program, it must provide equal athletic opportunities for members of both sexes.

**E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

None.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 779 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY PICOZZI, STREET, FONTANA, VOGEL, ROTHMAN, BROWN, HAYWOOD, STEFANO, TARTAGLIONE, KEARNEY, PENNYCUICK, GEBHARD, ROBINSON, PHILLIPS-HILL, LAUGHLIN AND COLEMAN, MAY 27, 2025

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MAY 27, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
 2 Consolidated Statutes, in trade and commerce, providing for  
 3 the offense of unlawful towing and towing storage facility  
 4 practices; and imposing penalties.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
 8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 7332. Unlawful towing and towing storage facility practices.

10 (a) Failure to meet operational requirements.--A tow truck  
 11 operator or the operator of a towing storage facility commits an  
 12 offense if the operator:

13 (1) fails to maintain a physical street address  
 14 accessible to the public during posted business hours;

15 (2) operates a tow truck without proper registration  
 16 with the Department of Transportation;

17 (3) fails to display the name, address and telephone  
 18 number of the tow truck business on the tow truck; or

1       (4) fails to post towing fees, storage fees, related  
2 service fees and hours of operation at the towing storage  
3 facility.

4       (b) Improper towing conduct.--At the scene of a motor  
5 vehicle accident, a tow truck operator commits an offense if the  
6 tow truck operator:

7           (1) fails to provide the owner or operator of the motor  
8 vehicle, if present, with a written notice containing the  
9 name, address and telephone number of a point of contact for  
10 motor vehicle retrieval;

11           (2) solicits or undertakes towing without being summoned  
12 by the owner or operator of the motor vehicle, a law  
13 enforcement officer or authorized municipal personnel; or

14           (3) secures the signature of the owner or operator of  
15 the motor vehicle on a document authorizing motor vehicle  
16 repair or storage for a duration of more than 24 hours as a  
17 condition of towing.

18       (c) Unlawful motor vehicle retention and fees.--A tow truck  
19 operator or the operator of a towing storage facility commits an  
20 offense if the operator:

21           (1) refuses, during posted hours of operation, to  
22 release a towed motor vehicle to the owner or operator of the  
23 motor vehicle, or an authorized representative of the owner  
24 or operator of the motor vehicle, unless a law enforcement  
25 officer has requested that the motor vehicle be held. Release  
26 of the motor vehicle may be conditioned on the payment of  
27 towing and storage and related services;

28           (2) fails to post, and when requested provide, towing  
29 fees, storage fees, related service fees and hours of  
30 operation at the towing storage facility;

1       (3) refuses to itemize in writing all charges to be paid  
2 for the towed motor vehicle;

3       (4) refuses to accept payment in cash, credit card from  
4 a common issuer or a check from an insurance company or  
5 authorized tower or salvor acting on behalf of the insurance  
6 company;

7       (5) charges a storage fee for a period during which  
8 access to the motor vehicle has been unreasonably refused to  
9 the owner or operator of the motor vehicle, or an authorized  
10 representative of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle,  
11 during posted business hours; or

12       (6) refuses to allow an authorized inspection of the  
13 motor vehicle for the purposes specified under 75 Pa.C.S. §  
14 1799.4 (relating to examination of vehicle repairs) or  
15 section 11 of the act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1713,  
16 No.367), known as the Motor Vehicle Physical Damage Appraiser  
17 Act.

18 (d) Grading.--

19       (1) A violation of subsection (a) is a summary offense  
20 punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 per violation.

21       (2) For a second or subsequent violation of subsection  
22 (a), the violation constitutes a summary offense punishable  
23 by a fine of not more than \$1,000.

24       (3) A violation of subsection (b) or (c) is a  
25 misdemeanor of the third degree punishable by a fine of not  
26 more than \$2,500 or imprisonment for a term of not more than  
27 one year, or both.

28       (4) For a second or subsequent violation of subsection  
29 (b) or (c), the violation is a misdemeanor of the second  
30 degree punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or

1 imprisonment of not more than two years, or both.

2 (5) In addition to the penalties imposed under this  
3 subsection, for a third or subsequent violation of subsection  
4 (b) or (c), a law enforcement officer may impound a tow truck  
5 owned by the tow truck operator or the operator of a towing  
6 storage facility. An impoundment under this paragraph shall  
7 remain in effect until the tow truck operator or the operator  
8 of a towing storage facility satisfies the penalties imposed  
9 under this subsection and demonstrates compliance with this  
10 section in a manner determined by a court of competent  
11 jurisdiction.

12 (e) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
13 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
14 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Law enforcement officer." A member of the Pennsylvania  
16 State Police or an individual employed as a police officer who  
17 is required to be trained under 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D  
18 (relating to municipal police education and training).

19 "Tow." To move, remove or recover a motor vehicle at the  
20 scene of a motor vehicle accident, regardless of whether the  
21 owner or operator of the motor vehicle consents to the moving,  
22 removal or recovery of the motor vehicle, for which a fee, not  
23 including dues to a club or association providing the service,  
24 is charged.

25 "Tow truck operator." A person performing towing in this  
26 Commonwealth, including the owner or operator of towing  
27 equipment.

28 "Towing storage facility." The location or business where a  
29 motor vehicle has been towed as a result of a motor vehicle  
30 accident and is securely stored in accordance with an agreement

1 with the tow truck operator who has towed the motor vehicle.

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 779

Sponsor: **Briggs**

Printer's No. 843

1 Amend Bill, page 2, line 13, by striking out "personnel; or"  
2 and inserting

3 personnel. If summoned by a law enforcement officer or  
4 authorized municipal personnel, the selection of a tow truck  
5 operator shall be in accordance with a municipal rotational  
6 towing ordinance, if applicable; or

7 Amend Bill, page 3, line 18, by striking out "Grading" and  
8 inserting

9 Penalties

10 Amend Bill, page 3, line 19, by striking out "a summary  
11 offense"

12 Amend Bill, page 3, line 20, by striking out "\$500" and  
13 inserting

14 \$750

15 Amend Bill, page 3, line 22, by striking out "constitutes a  
16 summary offense" and inserting

17 is

18 Amend Bill, page 3, line 23, by striking out "\$1,000" and  
19 inserting

20 \$1,500

21 Amend Bill, page 3, lines 24 and 25, by striking out "a  
22 misdemeanor of the third degree"

23 Amend Bill, page 3, lines 26 and 27, by striking out "or  
24 imprisonment for a term of not more than one year, or both"

1 Amend Bill, page 3, lines 29 and 30, by striking out "a  
2 misdemeanor of the second degree"

3 Amend Bill, page 3, line 30; page 4, line 1; by striking out  
4 "or" in line 30 on page 3 and "imprisonment of not more than two  
5 years, or both" in line 1 on page 4

6 Amend Bill, page 4, by inserting between lines 11 and 12  
7 (e) Nothing in this section shall preclude a municipality  
8 from enacting a rotational towing ordinance.

9 Amend Bill, page 4, line 12, by striking out "(e)" and  
10 inserting

11 (f)

12 Amend Bill, page 5, line 2, by striking out "60" and  
13 inserting

14 150

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

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<b>Bill No:</b>	SB0779 PN0843	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Marissa Itterly (717) 705-1880,6312
<b>Committee:</b>	Judiciary	<b>Executive Director:</b>	David Vitale, Esq.
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Picozzi and Street		
<b>Date:</b>	7/1/2025		

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### **A. Brief Concept**

Provides for penalties against abusive towing practices.

### **C. Analysis of the Bill**

The bill amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to create § **7332 (Unlawful Towing and Towing Storage Facility Practices)**.

Subsection (a) (Failure to Meet Operation Requirements) to make it an offense if a tow truck operator or the operator of a towing storage facility:

- Fails to maintain a physical street address accessible to the public during posted business hours;
- Operates a tow truck without proper registration with the Department of Transportation;
- Fails to display the name, address and telephone number of the tow truck business on the tow truck; or
- Fails to post towing fees, storage fees, related service fees and hours of operation at the towing storage facility.

In addition, the bill creates Subsection (b) (Improper Towing Conduct), which would make it an offense if, at the scene of a vehicle accident, a tow truck operator:

- Fails to provide the owner or operator of the motor vehicle, if present, with a written notice containing the name, address and telephone number of a point of contact for motor vehicle retrieval;
- Solicits or undertakes towing without being summoned by the owner or operator of the motor vehicle, a law officer or authorized municipal personnel; or
- Secures the signature of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle on a document authorizing motor vehicle repair or storage for a duration of more than 24 hours as a condition of towing.

The bill also creates Subsection (c) (Unlawful Motor Vehicle Retention and Fees), which makes it an offense if a tow truck operator or operator of a towing storage facility:

- Refuses, during posted hours of operation, to release a towed motor vehicle to the owner or operator of the motor vehicle, or an authorized representative, unless a law enforcement officer has requested that the motor vehicle be held. Release of the motor vehicle may be conditioned on the payment of towing and storage and related services;
- Fails to post, and when requested provide, towing fees, storage fees, related service fees and hours of operation at the towing storage facility;
- Refuses to itemize in writing all charges to be paid for the towed motor vehicle;
- Refuses to accept payment in cash, credit card from a common issuer or a check from an insurance company or authorized tower or salvor acting on behalf of the insurance company;
- Charges a storage fee for a period during which access to the motor vehicle has been unreasonably refused to the owner or operator of the motor vehicle, or an authorized representative, during posted business hours; or

- Refuses to allow an authorized inspection of the motor vehicle for the purposes specified under 75 Pa. C.S. § 1799.4 (relating to examination of vehicle repairs) or Section 11 of the act of December 29, 1972 (P.L. 1713, No. 367), known as the Motor Vehicle Physical Damage Appraiser Act.

Grading would be as follows:

- A violation of Subsection (a) would be a summary offense punishable by a fine or no more than \$500.00 per violation;
  - For a second or subsequent violation of this section, the violation would be a summary offense punishable by a fine or no more than \$1,000.00
- A violation of Subsection (b) would be a misdemeanor of the third degree punishable by a fine or no more than \$2,500.00 or imprisonment for a term of no more than one year, or both.
- For a second or subsequent violation of Subsection (b) or (c), it would be a misdemeanor of the second degree punishable by a fine of no more than \$5,000.00 or imprisonment of no more than two years, or both.

In addition to the above penalties, a third or subsequent violation of Subsection (b) or (c), a law enforcement officer may impound a tow truck owned by the tow truck operator or the operator of a towing storage facility. An impoundment under this paragraph would remain in effect until the tow truck operator or the operator of a towing storage facility satisfies the penalties above and demonstrates compliance with this section in a manner determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

The bill includes the following definitions:

- "Law enforcement officer." A member of the Pennsylvania State Police or an individual employed as a police officer who is required to be trained under 53 Pa. C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D (relating to municipal police education and training).
- "Tow." To move, remove, or recover a motor vehicle at the scene of a motor vehicle accident, regardless of whether the owner or operator of the motor vehicle consents to the moving, removal or recovery of the motor vehicle, for which a fee, not including a dues to a club or association providing the service is charged.
- "Tow truck operator." A person performing towing in this Commonwealth, including the owner or operator of towing equipment.
- "Towing storage facility." The location or business where a motor vehicle has been towed as a result of a motor vehicle accident and is securely stored in accordance with an agreement with the tow truck operator who has towed the motor vehicle.

**Effective Date:**

60 Days.

**G. Relevant Existing Laws**

The Towing and Towing Storage Facility Standards Act.

Section 3. Standards for tow truck operators and towing storage facilities.

(a) General requisites.--A tow truck operator and, where applicable, the operator of a towing storage facility, shall:

- (1) maintain a physical street address;
- (2) properly register the tow truck with the Department of Transportation;
- (3) display the name, address and telephone number of its tow truck business on the tow truck; and

(4) post the towing fees and the storage and related service fees and hours of operation at the towing storage facility.

(b) Time of notice.--At the scene of an accident, a tow truck operator shall provide the owner or operator of the vehicle if the owner or operator is at the scene with a notice containing the name, address and telephone number for a point of contact to be informed where the vehicle is to be stored.

(c) Accident.--A tow truck operator shall undertake towing at the scene of a motor vehicle accident only if summoned to the scene by the vehicle owner or vehicle operator, or law enforcement personnel or authorized municipal personnel, and is authorized to perform the towing as follows:

(1) The owner or operator of the vehicle being towed shall summon to the scene the tow truck operator of the owner's or operator's choice in consultation with law enforcement or authorized municipal personnel and designate the location where the vehicle is to be towed.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall not apply when the owner or operator is incapacitated, otherwise unable to summon a tow truck operator or defers to law enforcement or authorized municipal personnel.

(3) The authority provided to the owner or operator in paragraph (1) may be superseded by the law enforcement officer or authorized municipal personnel if the tow truck operator of choice cannot respond to the scene in a timely fashion and the vehicle is a hazard, impedes the flow of traffic or may not legally remain in its location in the opinion of law enforcement or authorized municipal personnel.

(d) Repair and storage.--As a condition of towing a vehicle at the scene of an accident and prior to the towing, a tow truck operator shall not:

(1) secure the signature of the vehicle owner or vehicle operator on a document that requires authorization to repair the vehicle; or

(2) secure the signature of the vehicle owner or vehicle operator to authorize storage of the vehicle for more than 24 hours.

(e) Release of towed vehicle.--Upon a request from the vehicle owner or a person authorized by the owner to regain possession, a tow truck operator or operator of a towing storage facility shall not refuse during the posted hours of operation to release a towed motor vehicle unless law enforcement has requested that the vehicle be held. Release shall be conditioned on the payment for towing, storage and related services. All charges shall be itemized and in writing. Payment may be made with cash, a credit card from a common issuer or a check from an insurance company or authorized tower or salvor acting on behalf of the insurance company.

(f) Access to vehicle.--A tow truck operator or towing storage facility shall provide hours of operation that reasonably allow access to a towed vehicle and shall grant reasonable access to the towed vehicle during its posted hours of operation for the purpose of inspection and retrieval by law enforcement officials or authorized municipal personnel, the vehicle owner or a person authorized by the owner under this act.

(g) Storage fee prohibited.--Unless law enforcement has requested that a vehicle be held, a tow truck operator or towing storage facility shall not charge a storage fee for any period during which it has refused reasonable access during posted normal business hours as required in subsection (e) or has refused to allow authorized inspection of the vehicle under inspection rights in 75 Pa.C.S. § 1799.4 (relating to examination of vehicle repairs) or section 11 of the act of December 29, 1972 (P.L.1713, No.367), known as the Motor Vehicle Physical Damage Appraiser Act.

#### Section 4. Violations.

A violation of this act is also a violation of the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.

## Section 5. Coordination of laws.

- (a) Local and municipal ordinances.--This act supersedes local or municipal ordinances only to the extent that those ordinances regulate towing and storage operations that are in conflict with and less stringent than this act.
- (b) Criminal investigations.--This act shall not supersede or otherwise cause interference with any Federal or State criminal investigation or prosecution.
- (c) Federal and State law.--If any portion of this act is preempted or superseded by Federal or State law or is declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this act shall remain in effect.

### Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Tow truck operator." A person performing towing in this Commonwealth, including the owner or operator of towing equipment.

"Towing." The moving, removing or recovery of a motor vehicle at the scene of a motor vehicle accident, regardless of whether the vehicle owner or operator consents to the moving, removal or recovery of a motor vehicle and for which a fee, not including dues to a club or association which provides such services, is charged.

"Towing storage facility." The location where a motor vehicle has been towed as a result of a motor vehicle accident and is securely stored pursuant to an agreement with the tow truck operator who has towed the vehicle.

### **E. Prior Session (Previous Bill Numbers & House/Senate Votes)**

None.

This document is a summary of proposed legislation and is prepared only as general information for use by the Democratic Members and Staff of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The document does not represent the legislative intent of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and may not be utilized as such.