
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1365 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, FRANKEL, HILL-EVANS,
KIRKLAND, STEPHENS, COMITTA, ISAACSON AND DALEY, MAY 1, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 1, 2019

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Gun Violence Task Force Pilot Program.

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 Gun Violence
6 Task Force Pilot Program Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

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

11 "County." Allegheny County, Dauphin County or Lehigh County.

12 "Office." The Office of Attorney General of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Pilot program." The Gun Violence Task Force Pilot Program
15 established under section 3.

16 "Task force." The task force of each county participating in
17 the pilot program.

1 Section 3. Establishment.

2 (a) Pilot program.--The Gun Violence Task Force Pilot
3 Program is established within the office.

4 (b) Locations.--The pilot program shall be available in a
5 county if approved by the county commissioners for the
6 individual county.

7 (c) Program goals.--The pilot program, in conjunction with
8 the office shall have the following goals:

9 (1) Address gun violence in targeted cities, including
10 Allentown, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

11 (2) Investigate and prosecute firearm violations.

12 Section 4. Approval by county commissioners.

13 The county commissioners of each county may pass a resolution
14 by majority vote to join the pilot program. Upon passage of the
15 resolution, the office shall be notified of the approval.

16 Section 5. Pilot program.

17 The pilot program in each county, under the guidance of the
18 office shall handle the following types of cases:

19 (1) Violations of the Pennsylvania Instant Check System,
20 which provides instant access to background records on an
21 individual to determine if the individual is eligible to
22 acquire a firearm or license to carry a firearm.

23 (2) Straw purchases of a firearm.

24 (3) Street sales of firearms, illegal lending and other
25 transfers of guns that do not comply with Federal and State
26 law.

27 (4) Cases where firearms are used in violent crimes
28 throughout each county. In partnership with Federal, State
29 and local law enforcement agencies, the task force may arrest
30 individuals responsible for murders, shootings and gunpoint

1 robberies.

2 Section 6. Task force members.

3 (a) Members.--In each county that approves the pilot
4 program, the following individuals shall be appointed by the
5 county commissioners to the task force:

6 (1) Two investigators with a police department located
7 within a targeted city.

8 (2) Two investigators with a police department located
9 within each county and outside of a targeted city.

10 (3) Two criminal analysts with at least 10 years of
11 experience or education who live in each county.

12 (4) Three assistant district attorneys who serve each
13 county with at least 10 years of experience with prosecuting
14 criminal cases, at least one of which must serve in a target
15 city.

16 (b) Compensation.--Each member of the task force who is not
17 otherwise an officer or employee of the Commonwealth shall
18 receive reimbursement for expenses incurred and per diem
19 compensation at a rate to be set by the office when actually
20 engaged in official meetings or otherwise in the performance of
21 official duties as directed by the task force.

22 Section 7. Evaluation and renewal or termination.

23 (a) Evaluation.--Within six months after the approval of the
24 pilot program and every six months thereafter, the county
25 commissioners of each county shall consult with the office to
26 evaluate the pilot program's impact on the county.

27 (b) Renewal of pilot program.--Within two years of the
28 initial approval of the pilot program and after consultation
29 with the Attorney General, the county commissioner of each
30 county shall either:

1 (1) Approve the continuation of the pilot program.

2 (2) Terminate the pilot program.

3 (c) Expiration without renewal.--The pilot program shall
4 expire two years after the approval date of the pilot program
5 unless the county commissioners of each county pass a resolution
6 continuing the program.

7 Section 8. Reports.

8 (a) Annual reports.--The county commissioners for each
9 county that approved the pilot program, in conjunction with the
10 office, shall submit a report to the General Assembly one year
11 after the implementation of the pilot program and each year
12 thereafter.

13 (b) Substance of report.--Each report shall contain at least
14 the following:

15 (1) The relevant gun violence statistics by county and
16 city for the year or years prior to the implementation of the
17 pilot program.

18 (2) The relevant gun violence statistics by county and
19 city for the year or years since the implementation of the
20 pilot program.

21 (3) The changes implemented in accordance with the pilot
22 program.

23 (4) Any other information required by the General
24 Assembly or deemed relevant by the county commissioners or
25 the office.

26 Section 9. Limitation.

27 This act does not prohibit, impair or impact any current task
28 forces in a city of the first class.

29 Section 10. Repeals.

30 All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar as they are

- 1 inconsistent with the provisions of this act.
- 2 Section 11. Effective date.
- 3 This act shall take effect in 60 days.