
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1834 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY ISAACSON, SCHLOSSBERG, HOHENSTEIN AND SANCHEZ,
SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous
3 articles, providing for volunteer observers.

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

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

8 § 6111.6. Volunteer observers.

9 (a) Rights.--

10 (1) Notwithstanding section 6111(i) (relating to sale or
11 transfer of firearms) or any other provision of law, a
12 volunteer observer shall be permitted to witness the
13 processing of:

14 (i) Criminal history, juvenile delinquency history
15 and mental health records background checks by the
16 Pennsylvania State Police at the Instant Check Unit.

17 (ii) Applications for licenses to carry a firearm by
18 a county sheriff or the chief of police of a city of the

1 first class.

2 (2) A volunteer observer who witnesses misconduct or
3 negligence during the processing described under paragraph
4 (1) may file a complaint with the Pennsylvania State Police.

5 The following apply:

6 (i) The Pennsylvania State Police shall investigate
7 the alleged misconduct or negligence.

8 (ii) An individual who files a complaint in good
9 faith shall be immune from any civil or criminal
10 liability associated with the filing.

11 (3) A volunteer observer may not interfere with, hinder
12 or unlawfully delay the processing described under paragraph
13 (1). A volunteer observer who does so shall be subsequently
14 prohibited from serving as a volunteer observer.

15 (b) Requirements.--

16 (1) An individual who wishes to observe the processing
17 described in subsection (a)(1) shall submit an application,
18 on a form developed by the Pennsylvania State Police, to:

19 (i) the Pennsylvania State Police, in the case of
20 the processing described in subsection (a)(1)(i); or

21 (ii) the county sheriff or the chief of police of a
22 city of the first class, in the case of the processing
23 described in subsection (a)(1)(ii).

24 (2) An applicant for a volunteer observer may not
25 witness the processing described under subsection (a)(1)
26 until the applicant's application is approved by the
27 appropriate authority.

28 (c) Penalties.--

29 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a volunteer
30 observer who violates section 6111 shall be subject to the

1 penalties described in section 6111.

2 (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to the filing of a
3 complaint under subsection (a)(2).

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