
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 631 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, SCHWANK, KITCHEN, TEPLITZ, VULAKOVICH,
HUGHES, RAFFERTY AND BROWNE, MARCH 23, 2015

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 23, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274),
2 entitled "An act establishing the Pennsylvania Commission on
3 Crime and Delinquency, providing for its powers and duties
4 establishing several advisory committees within the
5 commission and providing for their powers and duties,"
6 further providing for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime
7 and Delinquency; and establishing the Mental Health and
8 Justice Advisory Committee and the Mental Health and Justice
9 Grant Program.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 2(d)(2) of the act of November 22, 1978
13 (P.L.1166, No.274), referred to as the Pennsylvania Commission
14 on Crime and Delinquency Law, amended October 25, 2012
15 (P.L.1607, No.196), is amended and subsection (b) is amended by
16 adding a paragraph to read:

17 Section 2. Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

18 * * *

19 (b) Composition.--The commission shall consist of the
20 following members:

21 * * *

1 (17.3) Chairman of the Mental Health and Justice
2 Advisory Committee.

3 * * *

4 (d) Term of office.--

5 * * *

6 (2) The term of the [chairman] chairmen of the Juvenile
7 Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee and the Mental
8 Health and Justice Advisory Committee shall be concurrent
9 with [his] their service as [chairman of that committee]
10 chairmen of their respective committees.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. The act is amended by adding sections to read:
13 Section 7.3. Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee.

14 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established the Mental
15 Health and Justice Advisory Committee within the commission.

16 (b) Composition.--The members of the committee shall be
17 appointed by the Governor and shall include representatives of
18 the Department of Corrections, the Department of Drug and
19 Alcohol Programs, the Department of Military and Veterans
20 Affairs, the Office of Mental Health Services and Substance
21 Abuse Services of the Department of Human Services, the
22 Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Administrative
23 Office of Pennsylvania Courts, the Pennsylvania Commission on
24 Sentencing, units of local government, public and private
25 agencies and organizations which provide or advocate for mental
26 health treatment and services, agencies which provide housing
27 for the mentally ill, victim service agencies, drug and alcohol
28 treatment providers, police, district attorneys, public
29 defenders, judges of the courts of common pleas, county adult
30 and juvenile probation officers, county wardens and any other

1 individuals with expertise in the public safety response and
2 management, treatment or provision of services to individuals
3 with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice or criminal
4 justice system.

5 (c) Term.--Members shall serve for a four-year term and may
6 be appointed for no more than one additional consecutive term.

7 (d) Number and qualifications.--The committee shall consist
8 of no more than 33 members, all of whom must have experience in
9 the public safety response and management, treatment or
10 provision of services to individuals with mental illness
11 involved in the juvenile justice or criminal justice system.

12 (e) Conditions of appointment.--The committee and its
13 members are subject to the same limitations and conditions
14 imposed upon the commission as prescribed in section 2(d), (e),
15 (h), (i), (m) and (n).

16 (f) Quorum.--A majority of the members shall constitute a
17 quorum and a vote of the majority of the members present shall
18 be sufficient for all actions.

19 (g) Chairman.--The Governor shall appoint a chairman from
20 among the members of the committee who shall serve at the
21 pleasure of the Governor. A vice chairman shall be designated by
22 the chairman and preside at meetings in the absence of the
23 chairman. The committee shall meet at the call of the chairman,
24 but not less than four times a year.

25 (h) Powers and duties.--The Mental Health and Justice
26 Advisory Committee shall have the power, and its duty shall be:

27 (1) To serve in an advisory capacity to the commission
28 through the committee's participation in the development of
29 that part of the commission's comprehensive plan relating to
30 the provision of treatment and services to individuals with

1 mental illness involved in the juvenile justice and criminal
2 justice systems.

3 (2) To serve the commission in an advisory capacity
4 relating to the direct approval and disbursement of financial
5 assistance.

6 (3) To advise the commission on the definition,
7 development and correlation of programs and projects and the
8 establishment of priorities for the provision of treatment
9 and services to individuals with mental illness involved in
10 the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

11 (4) Upon request, to provide whatever assistance and
12 advice to the commission on any other matters relating to the
13 provision of treatment and services to individuals with
14 mental illness involved in the juvenile justice and criminal
15 justice systems.

16 (i) Resource and staff support.--The Department of Human
17 Services and the Department of Corrections shall cooperate with
18 the commission in providing resources to the commission in
19 support of the committee. Staff support shall be made available
20 to the committee by the executive director in order to
21 adequately perform the duties provided for in this section.

22 Section 8.2. Mental Health and Justice Grant Program.

23 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established the Mental
24 Health and Justice Grant Program within the commission.

25 (b) Awarding grants.--The commission shall award grants to
26 assist in planning, implementing or expanding initiatives that
27 increase public safety, avert increased spending on criminal
28 justice and improve the effectiveness of treatment services for
29 individuals with mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders or
30 co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who are

1 involved or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice
2 system.

3 (c) Number of grants.--The commission shall base the number
4 of grants on the amount of funds appropriated by the General
5 Assembly and other funds available for the purposes of this act.

6 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 90 days.