
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1047 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HARKINS, V. BROWN, DAVIDSON, ACOSTA, SCHLOSSBERG,
HARHAI, READSHAW, GRELL, MAHONEY, O'BRIEN, STURLA, CONKLIN,
FRANKEL, COHEN, CARROLL, D. COSTA, MURT AND ROZZI,
APRIL 27, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 27, 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 Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
7 Delinquency; and establishing the Mental Health and Justice
8 Advisory Committee and the Mental Health and Justice Grant
9 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:

1 * * *

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

4 * * *

5 (d) Term of office.--

6 * * *

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

12 * * *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (1) To serve in an advisory capacity to the commission
29 through the committee's participation in the development of
30 that part of the commission's comprehensive plan relating to

1 the provision of treatment and services to individuals with
2 mental illness involved in the juvenile justice and criminal
3 justice systems.

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

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

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

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

23 Section 8.2. Mental Health and Justice Grant Program.

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

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

1 co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who are
2 involved or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice
3 system.

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

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