
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1274

Session of
1981

INTRODUCED BY H. WILLIAMS, BARBER, KUKOVICH, DEAL, WIGGINS,
MILLER, ALDEN, SALVATORE, BELFANTI, FREIND, PENDLETON, COHEN,
SPENCER, SIRIANNI, RITTER, WARGO, STEWART, BELOFF, LEVIN,
EVANS, J. D. WILLIAMS, OLIVER, PICCOLA, WHITE, DeWEESE,
BERSON, BURNS, WILSON AND PUNT, APRIL 22, 1981

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 22, 1981

AN ACT

1 Creating the State Board of Organized Anticrime Community
2 Network Assistance, granting powers to the board, providing
3 for grants, imposing duties upon certain public officers and
4 agencies and making an appropriation.

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 "Organized
9 Anticrime Community Network Assistance Act."

10 Section 2. Findings and policy.

11 (a) The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that the
12 high incidence of street crime in various sections of this
13 Commonwealth has reduced the spirit and community pride of our
14 citizens; that crime and the fear of crime has made senior
15 citizens prisoners in their own homes; that crime breeds in the
16 streets and corruption in government when citizens are apathetic
17 toward their community and institutions; that many communities

1 of the Commonwealth are paralyzed, disabled and dominated by
2 incessant, violent street crime; that one of the most effective
3 methods of reducing crime is to involve citizens and the private
4 sector in cooperative anticrime programs with local governments;
5 that the fear of crime is inimical to the development of local
6 businesses; that crime prevention programs instituted by
7 citizens over the past several years have had a measurable
8 effect on reducing crime and improving citizen cooperation with
9 local law enforcement; and that crime prevention programs should
10 be expanded to attack the root cause of crime.

11 (b) The General Assembly further finds that deeply
12 entrenched street crime has not been alleviated by the efforts
13 of governments to combat crime; and that the most effective
14 vehicle for crime prevention and for restoration of communities
15 to a peaceful state is an alert, organized and committed
16 citizenry.

17 (c) It is therefore the declared policy of the General
18 Assembly to promote, assist and facilitate the efficient
19 channeling of citizen resources in local communities toward
20 alleviating and preventing crime and to facilitate and assist
21 local anticrime network units in identifying and developing
22 local projects which will attack or eliminate crime and the
23 causes of crime.

24 Section 3. Definitions.

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

28 "Board." The State Board of Organized Anticrime Community
29 Network Assistance.

30 "Local anticrime network unit." Any nonprofit private agency

1 or group established for the purpose of preventing or
2 eliminating crime through crime prevention programs, economic
3 development programs or similar means.

4 Section 4. Establishment of State Board of Organized Anticrime
5 Community Network Assistance.

6 (a) There is hereby established in the Office of the
7 Attorney General a board which shall be known as the State Board
8 of Organized Anticrime Community Network Assistance.

9 (b) The board shall consist of the following members:

10 (1) The Secretary of Community Affairs or a designee of
11 the secretary.

12 (2) The Secretary of Welfare or a designee of the
13 secretary.

14 (3) The Attorney General or a designee of the Attorney
15 General.

16 (4) The Secretary of Commerce or a designee of the
17 secretary.

18 (5) The Commissioner of the State Police or the
19 commissioner's designee.

20 (6) Four members of the General Assembly, one of whom
21 shall be designated by, and serve at the pleasure of the
22 President pro tempore of the Senate, one by the minority
23 leader of the Senate, one by the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives and one by the minority leader of the House
25 of Representatives.

26 (7) Four private citizens appointed by the Governor from
27 lists of names submitted by local anticrime network units.

28 (c) Members of the board shall serve a four-year term and
29 may be appointed for no more than one additional consecutive
30 term. The terms of those members who serve by virtue of the

1 public office they hold shall be concurrent with their service
2 in the office from which they derive their membership. Vacancies
3 shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the
4 same manner as original appointments.

5 (d) The board shall elect from among its members a presiding
6 officer and such other officers as it may deem necessary.

7 (e) A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum.

8 (f) Members who are not holders of public office shall be
9 paid \$100 a day for attendance at meetings of the board.

10 Necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by any member of the
11 board shall be allowed and paid upon presentation of itemized
12 vouchers.

13 (g) The board may appoint an executive director and may
14 employ such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the
15 purposes of this act. Employees of the board, other than the
16 executive director, shall be employed in accordance with and
17 subject to the act of August 5, 1941 (P.L.752, No.286), known as
18 the "Civil Service Act."

19 (h) Regular meetings of the board shall be held at least
20 once in each calendar month.

21 Section 5. Powers and duties of the board.

22 The board shall have the power and its duty shall be:

23 (1) To make policy recommendations regarding alleviation
24 of crime and elimination of the causes of crime to the
25 General Assembly, the Governor and Commonwealth departments,
26 bureaus, commissions and agencies.

27 (2) To cooperate with and provide consultation services
28 to local anticrime network units.

29 (3) To solicit reports or information from local
30 anticrime network units regarding programs designed to reduce

1 crime.

2 (4) To invite representatives of local anticrime network
3 units to regular board meetings for the purpose of receiving
4 ideas and suggestions.

5 (5) To make grants to local anticrime network units for
6 programs designed to carry out the provisions of this act.

7 (6) To review social, economic and law enforcement plans
8 developed by other State agencies for the purpose of
9 coordinating development and implementation of programs
10 designed in whole or in part to combat crime.

11 (7) To promulgate such rules and regulations as the
12 board deems necessary to properly administer this act.

13 Section 6. Awarding of grants.

14 (a) The board may make grants to local anticrime network
15 units to carry out programs including:

16 (1) Programs to encourage the participation of industry,
17 business, labor unions and other private enterprises in crime
18 prevention and elimination efforts.

19 (2) The recruiting and training of police-community
20 relations officers, which includes the development of
21 programs of police training and education to sensitize police
22 to the needs of the community.

23 (3) The recruiting and training of community service
24 officers to serve with and assist police departments in the
25 discharge of their duties through such activities as
26 recruiting police officers, improvement of police community
27 relations and grievance resolution mechanisms.

28 (4) The recruiting, organization and training of citizen
29 preventive patrols for the purpose of patrolling apartment
30 buildings, neighborhoods and schools.

1 (5) The recruiting and training of police aides (paid or
2 volunteer) including minority aides and youth aides.

3 (6) The recruiting of minority police officers.

4 (7) Programs to encourage the reporting of crime and the
5 marking and identification of personal property.

6 (8) The establishment of community structures to
7 coordinate all citizen programs.

8 (9) Programs to enhance the delivery of social services
9 into neighborhoods such as the removal of waste, street
10 cleaning, building inspection, recreational facilities and
11 improved street lighting.

12 (10) Programs to provide volunteer escorts for elderly
13 citizens and other persons requiring assistance to and from
14 their residences in high crime areas.

15 (11) Programs to provide counseling to ex-offenders,
16 narcotics and addicts and persons on probation.

17 (12) Programs to improve communications between the
18 community and police departments.

19 (13) Programs to provide alternatives to incarceration
20 (including release to the custody of community programs) for
21 persons convicted of minor or victimless crimes.

22 (14) Programs of citizen crime commissions established
23 for the purpose of combating the influences of organized
24 crime.

25 (15) Programs designed to eliminate or reduce youth
26 organized violence.

27 (16) Programs providing economic assistance to
28 neighborhoods to foster development of business and industry.

29 (b) Grants may be made only upon an application to the board
30 which contains:

1 (1) Satisfactory assurances that such applicant will
2 place special emphasis upon programs, which involve
3 disadvantaged persons and minority groups in the criminal
4 justice system.

5 (2) Satisfactory assurances that such applicant will
6 make special efforts to assure that programs established
7 under this act are directed to the geographic areas of the
8 city to be served with the highest incidence of crime.

9 (3) Satisfactory assurances that such applicant has
10 consulted on its application with local public agencies and
11 nonprofit private agencies located in the geographic area of
12 the city to be served and has adopted procedures to
13 coordinate its program with related efforts being made by
14 such other agencies.

15 (4) Satisfactory assurances that maximum use will be
16 made under the program of other Federal, State or local
17 resources available for the provision of services requested
18 under this act.

19 (5) Satisfactory assurances that in developing programs,
20 the applicant will give public agencies and nonprofit private
21 agencies providing services within the geographic area to be
22 served opportunity to present their views to such applicant
23 with respect to such programs.

24 (6) Satisfactory assurances that such applicant will
25 institute procedures for evaluating the operation of each
26 program operated by it under this act, including the
27 maintenance of records on the disbursement of funds, and will
28 report in full to the board annually during the period such
29 program is assisted under this act on the functions and
30 services performed by such program, the disbursement of grant

1 funds, and any innovations made to meet the needs of the
2 geographic area where such program is in operation.

3 (7) A statement of the method or methods of linking the
4 resources of public agencies and local anticrime network
5 units providing services relating to the purpose of the grant
6 application.

7 (c) To qualify for grants under this act a local anticrime
8 network unit shall either have been in continuous operation for
9 a period of at least one year before the date of application or
10 shall demonstrate by other means that it is likely to continue
11 in existence for a substantial period of time and shall
12 demonstrate that it can satisfactorily administer the program
13 for which a grant is requested. Such grants and contracts may be
14 made only upon application to the board, which contains
15 satisfactory assurances that:

16 (1) the applicant will maintain adequate records on the
17 disbursement of funds under the act which will be made
18 available upon request to the board; and

19 (2) the applicant will make available to the entire
20 community that it normally serves and where it is
21 geographically located, on a nondiscriminatory basis, the
22 benefits of any program instituted by it under this act.

23 Section 7. Application for grant.

24 (a) In addition to the requirements for applications set
25 forth in section 6 of this act, the board shall require each
26 application for a grant under this act to include:

27 (1) A description of the purpose of the program.

28 (2) A description of the anticipated use of funds under
29 the grant.

30 (3) A description of the geographic area of the

community in which the program will be carried out and the incidence of crime in such area.

(4) A description of the extent that the program anticipates assistance, financial or otherwise, from departments or agencies of the Federal, State or local governments.

(5) A description of the anticipated number of citizens who will participate in the program or be benefited by its operation.

(b) The board shall provide assistance in filing an application under this act to any applicant requesting such assistance.

Section 8. Hearing on application denials.

The board shall, on the application of any person claiming to be aggrieved by the denial of assistance under this act, give such person a public hearing to determine if such person was so aggrieved. If the department determines if such person was so aggrieved, it shall grant, in whole or in part, the assistance with respect to which such hearing was held.

Section 9. Restriction or use of funds.

Not more than one-third of any grant made under this act shall be used for the lease or rental of any building or space therein. No part of any grant may be used to purchase buildings or land or for research, except to the extent such research is incidental to the carrying out of programs under this act.

Section 10. Technical assistance.

The department shall provide technical assistance to local anticrime network units, either directly or through contracts with other State departments or agencies to enable such units to fully participate in all programs available under this act.

1 Section 11. Amount of grants.

2 (a) The board may annually make grants to qualified
3 applicants within a particular State representative district is
4 an amount not exceeding \$10,000 per State representative
5 district. If a qualified local anticrime network unit provides
6 services in more than one State representative district, then
7 the maximum amount of a grant for a State representative
8 district shall be increased to \$15,000 for each district served
9 by such unit.

10 (b) The board may annually make grants to qualified
11 applicants within a particular State representative district in
12 an amount not exceeding \$25,000 for projects which:

13 (1) Involve businesses, institutions and groups within
14 an area designated by the board as having a high incidence of
15 street crime and high unemployment for the purpose of
16 attracting businesses and industry and creating jobs.

17 (2) Involve capital participation by business and
18 industry.

19 (3) Involve high technology enterprises.

20 (4) Invoke creative approaches to reducing crime by
21 stimulating employment.

22 Section 12. Duties of public officials and agencies.

23 (a) Each Commonwealth department, agency, bureau and
24 commission shall designate an anticrime liaison officer who
25 shall be readily available to interface with local anticrime
26 network units and who shall:

27 (1) Determine the needs of the individual network units
28 and determine how the department, agency, bureau or
29 commission can provide assistance in meeting such needs.

30 (2) Suggest to the head of the department, agency,

bureau or commission policies which the department, agency, bureau or commission could undertake to enhance citizen participation in anticrime programs and in programs designed to reduce crime.

(3) Report to the board at regular intervals on matters relating to preventing, eliminating and reducing crime at the local level.

(b) Every Commonwealth department, agency, bureau and commission concerned in whole or in part with law enforcement and economic development shall make available upon request of any local anticrime network unit consulting services and technical assistance, including but not limited to strategy evaluation, financial advice and motivational input to further the purposes of this act.

(c) Every chief of police, county police force, sheriff, district attorney, chief protection officer, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Department of Public Welfare and every other person or agency dealing with crimes or criminals shall adopt policies or regulations providing for priority access to such person's or agency's assistance by any local anticrime network unit requesting such assistance.

Section 13. Cooperation among agencies.

The board in the administration of this act shall consult and cooperate with any Federal, State or local agency which performs functions related to the purposes of this act.

Section 14. Appropriation.

The sum of , or as much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Office of the Attorney General for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1981 to carry out the purposes of this act.

1 Section 15. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect immediately.