

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 1423** Session of  
1985

INTRODUCED BY SERAFINI, STABACK, GODSHALL, ARTY, SEMMEL, CIMINI  
AND SIRIANNI, JUNE 17, 1985

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 17, 1985

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 22 (Detectives and Private Police) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, authorizing the  
3 appointment of policemen by private residential communities  
4 and public utilities.

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

7 Section 1. Section 501 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 501. Appointment by [nonprofit] corporations.

10 (a) Appointment authorized.--Any nonprofit corporation, as  
11 defined in Part III of Title 15 (relating to corporations not-  
12 for-profit) maintaining a cemetery or any buildings or grounds  
13 open to the public, or organized for the prevention of cruelty  
14 to children or aged persons or animals, or one or more of such  
15 purposes, any corporation which operates a private residential  
16 community or which exists to provide municipal services to a  
17 private residential community and any public utility as defined  
18 in Title 66 (relating to public utilities) may apply to the

1 court of common pleas of the county of the registered office of  
2 the corporation or utility for the appointment of such persons  
3 as the corporation or utility may designate to act as policemen  
4 for the corporation. The court, upon such application, may order  
5 and decree such persons, or as many of them as it may deem  
6 proper and necessary, to be such policemen.

7 (b) Oath of office.--Every policeman so appointed shall,  
8 before entering upon the duties of his office, take and  
9 subscribe the oath required by the sixth article of the  
10 Constitution of Pennsylvania. Such oath, together with the  
11 decree and order of the court, shall be recorded by the recorder  
12 of deeds of each county in which it is intended that such  
13 policemen shall act.

14 (c) Powers.--Such policemen, so appointed, shall severally  
15 possess and exercise all the powers of a police officer in this  
16 Commonwealth, in and upon, and in the immediate and adjacent  
17 vicinity of, the property of the corporation or utility.  
18 Policemen so appointed for a corporation organized for the  
19 prevention of cruelty to children or aged persons or animals, or  
20 one or more of such purposes, shall severally possess and  
21 exercise all the powers of a police officer in any county in  
22 which they may be directed by the corporation to act, and are  
23 hereby authorized to arrest persons for the commission of any  
24 offense of cruelty to children or aged persons or animals. The  
25 keepers of jails and other places of detention in any county of  
26 this Commonwealth shall receive all persons arrested by [such]  
27 any policemen appointed under this section for purposes of  
28 detention until they are dealt with according to law. Every  
29 policeman appointed under this section, when on duty, shall wear  
30 a metallic shield with the words "special officer" and the name

1 of the corporation or utility for which appointed inscribed  
2 thereon.

3 (d) Compensation.--The compensation of such policemen shall  
4 be paid by the corporation or utility for which the policemen  
5 are appointed, as may be agreed upon between the corporation or  
6 utility and such policemen.

7 (e) Termination of appointment.--When any corporation or  
8 utility shall no longer require the services of any policeman,  
9 it shall file a notice to that effect, under its corporate seal,  
10 in the office of each recorder of deeds where the court decree  
11 and order of appointment of such policeman were recorded. The  
12 recorder of deeds shall note this information upon the margin of  
13 the record where the court decree and order were recorded, and  
14 thereupon the powers of such policeman shall terminate. It shall  
15 be the duty of the recorder of deeds to notify the clerk of the  
16 court by which such policeman was appointed of the termination  
17 of such appointment in such county.

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