

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 501 Session of  
1997

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FEBRUARY 12, 1997

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON AGING AND YOUTH, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 4, 1998

## AN ACT

1 ~~Creating the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services~~ <—  
2 ~~to Elderly Persons~~ STATEWIDE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF <—  
3 SENIOR CITIZENS; and providing for powers and duties of the  
4 committee.

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 ~~Coordination~~ <—  
9 ~~of Police Services to Elderly Persons Act.~~ STATEWIDE COMMITTEE <—  
10 FOR THE PROTECTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS ACT.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
13 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "~~Committee.~~" ~~The Committee for the Coordination of Police~~ <—

1 ~~Services to Elderly Persons~~ "COMMITTEE." THE STATEWIDE <—  
2 COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS established  
3 under section 3.

4 "Office." The Office of Attorney General of the  
5 Commonwealth.

6 "Triad program." The triad cooperative model developed by  
7 the American Association of Retired Persons, the National  
8 Sheriffs' Association and the International Association of  
9 Chiefs of Police which calls for the participation of the  
10 sheriff, at least one police chief and a representative of at  
11 least one senior citizens' organization within a county and may  
12 include participation by general service coalitions of law  
13 enforcement, victim service and senior citizen advocate  
14 organizations. If there is not both a sheriff and a police chief  
15 in a county or if the sheriff or a police chief does not  
16 participate, a triad may include in the place of the sheriff or  
17 police chief another key law enforcement official in the county  
18 such as a district attorney.

19 Section 3. Establishment of committee.

20 There is hereby established within the Office of Attorney  
21 General of the Commonwealth the ~~Committee for the Coordination~~ <—  
22 ~~of Police Services to Elderly Persons~~ STATEWIDE COMMITTEE FOR <—  
23 THE PROTECTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

24 Section 4. Membership and operation of committee.

25 (a) Members.--The committee shall consist of ten members, as  
26 follows:

27 (1) The Attorney General of the Commonwealth, who shall  
28 serve as presiding officer of the committee.

29 (2) The Secretary of Aging.

30 (3) The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police.

1 (4) The presiding officer of the Crime Victim's  
2 Compensation Board.

3 (5) Two county sheriffs, to be appointed by the  
4 Governor.

5 (6) Two municipal police chiefs, to be appointed by the  
6 Governor.

7 (7) Two citizens at large both of whom shall be 65 years  
8 of age or older, to be appointed by the Governor.

9 ~~(b) Method of appointment. Appointments by the Governor~~ <—  
10 ~~shall be made from nominations submitted by relevant~~  
11 ~~organizations.~~

12 (B) DESIGNEES.--EXCEPT FOR MEMBERS APPOINTED UNDER <—  
13 SUBSECTION (A)(7), ANY MEMBER MAY BE REPRESENTED BY A DESIGNEE.

14 (c) Term.--Members of the committee appointed by the  
15 Governor shall serve for a term of three years. A member may be  
16 reappointed for additional terms.

17 (d) Cessation of participation.--A member of the committee  
18 shall, immediately upon removal or retirement from the position  
19 by virtue of which the member was eligible for appointment,  
20 cease to be a member of the committee.

21 (e) Vacancies.--A member appointed to fill a vacancy created  
22 other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the  
23 unexpired term of the member whom he is to succeed in the same  
24 manner as the original appointment.

25 (f) Reimbursement.--Members of the committee shall serve  
26 without compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary and  
27 actual expenses incurred in attending meetings of the committee  
28 and in the performance of their duties under this act.

29 (g) Removal.--Members of the committee may be removed by the  
30 Governor for cause after written notice from the Governor.

(h) Meetings.--The committee shall meet as often as ~~its~~ ~~members deem~~ THE PRESIDING OFFICER DEEMS necessary, but not less than twice per year.

Section 5. Powers and duties of committee.

The committee shall ~~advise the Office of Attorney General,~~ ~~the Department of Aging, the Pennsylvania State Police, county sheriffs and other local law enforcement agencies, senior advocates and other relevant parties chosen in consultation with the office~~ PARTICIPATE in the study and evaluation of triad programs as an effective response to the problems of crime against elderly persons. The committee may also consult with experts, service providers and representative organizations engaged in the protection of the elderly and may recommend the development of triad programs in this Commonwealth to assist the elderly to avoid criminal victimization through coordinated efforts of State and local law enforcement agencies and organizations which provide services for the elderly. The committee may also recommend policies and programs to assist law enforcement agencies in implementing triad programs, including training and prevention standards and technical assistance. The powers and duties of the committee shall include the following:

(1) Establishment of a Statewide and central clearinghouse for ~~information and~~ education materials.

(2) Development of innovative community police programs for the elderly.

(3) Providing assistance to the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission in the development and delivery of training to law enforcement professionals ~~involved in the triad programs,~~ including, but not limited to, the subjects of:

1 (i) crimes against the elderly and the protection of  
2 elderly persons;

3 (ii) police sensitivity to the needs of elderly  
4 persons as victims and witnesses; and

5 (iii) AVAILABLE social and human services RELATING <—  
6 TO CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS.

7 (4) Providing assistance to State and local law  
8 enforcement officials and to not-for-profit corporations and  
9 organizations with respect to effective policies for and  
10 responses to crimes against elderly persons.

11 (5) Promoting and facilitating cooperation among State  
12 agencies and local units of government.

13 (6) ~~Effective advocacy of services to protect~~ ADVOCACY <—  
14 OF SERVICES PROVEN TO BE EFFECTIVE IN THE PROTECTION OF  
15 elderly persons and elderly victims of crime.

16 (7) Evaluating the relationship between crimes against  
17 elderly persons and other problems confronting elderly  
18 persons, and making recommendations for effective policy  
19 response.

20 (8) Collection of statistical data and research.

21 ~~(9) Promulgation of rules and regulations as may be~~ <—

22 SECTION 6. REGULATIONS. <—

23 THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY PROMULGATE RULES AND  
24 REGULATIONS necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

25 Section 6 7. Effective date. <—

26 This act shall take effect in 60 days.