

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1157 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY MARSICO, BEBKO-JONES, BROWNE, COY, CRAHALLA,
GEIST, GILLESPIE, GRUCELA, PHILLIPS, SCHRODER, SHANER,
R. STEVENSON AND E. Z. TAYLOR, APRIL 14, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 14, 2003

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting cutting instruments in
3 airports.

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

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 6163. Cutting instruments in airports.

9 (a) Offense defined.--An individual commits a summary
10 offense if the individual intentionally or knowingly possesses a
11 cutting instrument on or about the individual's person or in the
12 individual's carry-on baggage at an airport security checkpoint
13 used for screening passengers or their carry-on baggage.

14 (b) Exception.--This section shall not apply to the
15 possession and use of a tool or instrument commonly or
16 ordinarily used in a construction trade if the tool or
17 instrument is in the possession of a worker authorized by the
18 airport or air carrier to perform construction work in an

1 approved area of the airport.

2 (c) Notice.--All airport security checkpoints used for
3 screening passengers or their carry-on baggage shall be clearly
4 indentified as such. Notice shall be posted informing
5 individuals that they and their baggage are subject to search
6 and that the possession of cutting instruments is prohibited.

7 (d) Penalty.--An individual who violates this section
8 commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be
9 sentenced to pay a fine of up to \$1,000 or to imprisonment for
10 not more than 90 days.

11 (e) Definition.--The term "cutting instrument" as used in
12 this section shall mean a device which has a cutting edge
13 similar to that of a knife and can be used as a weapon or a
14 cutting device specially made or adapted for concealment,
15 including, but not limited to, a box cutter, gravity knife,
16 razor blade, scissors, credit card knife, belt buckle knife,
17 hair brush knife or hair comb knife.

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