

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 494 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY KASUNIC, COSTA, STOUT, FONTANA, KITCHEN, MUSTO,
LOGAN, RHOADES AND WOZNIAK, MARCH 15, 2007

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 15, 2007

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 54 (Names) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, providing for name change petition and
3 advertisement of petition filing.

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

6 Section 1. Title 54 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 701.1. Petition and advertisement of petition filing.

9 (a) Petition.--

10 (1) Persons desiring to change their name shall file a
11 petition in the court of common pleas of the county in which
12 they reside, setting forth such desire and intention and the
13 reason therefor, together with their current residence and
14 any residence or residences for and during five years prior
15 thereto.

16 (2) Where the petitioner is a married person, the other
17 spouse may join as a party petitioner, in which event, upon
18 compliance with the provisions of this section, the spouse

1 shall also be entitled to the benefits of this chapter.

2 (3) The court shall, thereupon, enter an order directing
3 that notice be given of the filing of the petition and of the
4 day set for the hearing thereon, which hearing shall be not
5 less than one month or more than three months after the
6 filing of the petition.

7 (b) Notice of filing of petition.--Notice of the filing of a
8 petition to change a person's name shall be:

9 (1) Published in two newspapers of general circulation
10 in the county where the petition is filed or the county
11 contiguous thereto, one of which publications may be in the
12 official paper for the publication of legal notices in that
13 county.

14 (2) Given to any nonpetitioning parent of a child whose
15 name may be affected by the proceedings.

16 (c) Objection.--At the hearing of the petition, any person
17 having lawful objection to the change of name may appear and be
18 heard.

19 (d) Decree.--If the court is satisfied after the hearing
20 that there is no lawful objection to the granting of the prayer
21 of the petition, a decree may be entered by the court changing
22 the name as requested, if at the hearing the petitioner or
23 petitioners present to the court:

24 (1) proof of publication of the notice as required by
25 the order, together with official searches of the proper
26 offices of the county wherein petitioner or petitioners
27 reside and of any other county wherein petitioner or
28 petitioners may have resided within five years of the filing
29 of their petition for change of name; or

30 (2) a certificate given by a corporation authorized by

1 law to make such searches, showing that there are no
2 judgments or decrees of record or any other matter of like
3 character against the petitioner or petitioners.

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