

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 38

Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, BROWNE, ERICKSON,  
RAFFERTY, KITCHEN, TOMLINSON, ALLOWAY AND WILLIAMS,  
JANUARY 12, 2011

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JANUARY 12, 2011

AN ACT

1 Establishing a grant program for law enforcement drug and  
2 violence task forces; and providing for the powers and duties  
3 of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Law  
8 Enforcement Drug and Violence Task Force Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and  
14 Delinquency.

15 "Law enforcement drug and violence task force" or "task  
16 force." A portion of a law enforcement agency or police  
17 department that is dedicated to the purpose set forth in section  
18 3(a).

1 "Program." The Law Enforcement Drug and Violence Task Force  
2 Grant Program established under this act.

3 Section 3. Law enforcement drug and violence task force.

4 (a) Purpose.--A law enforcement drug and violence task force  
5 shall have as its purpose a comprehensive crime-fighting effort  
6 in a designated geographical area to remove violent felons,  
7 illegal drugs, illegal firearms and other criminal activity and  
8 to improve the quality of life for residents of the geographical  
9 area.

10 (b) Operation of task force.--A law enforcement drug and  
11 violence task force shall be assigned and deployed as a specific  
12 unit within a police department to address, in a coordinated  
13 fashion, the problems in a designated high-crime geographical  
14 area in order to clear that area of illegal drugs, illegal  
15 firearms and other criminal activity. The task force shall focus  
16 its operation on high-crime days of the week and during high-  
17 crime times of the day or night.

18 (c) Quality of life.--In addition to making arrests for  
19 criminal activity, a task force shall address quality of life  
20 issues by reporting to appropriate authorities, or correcting on  
21 its own, situations or conditions that contribute to criminal  
22 activity, including, but not limited to, abandoned buildings and  
23 vehicles, broken windows and doors, vacant and trash-strewn  
24 properties and broken street lights.

25 (d) Length of time of operation.--A task force may target a  
26 designated geographical area within a political subdivision for  
27 a specific length of time and then redeploy to another  
28 designated high-crime area within the political subdivision.

29 Section 4. Powers and duties of commission.

30 (a) Program established.--The Law Enforcement Drug and

1 Violence Task Force Grant Program is established. The commission  
2 shall administer the program and shall develop an application  
3 procedure for the program. Multiple political subdivisions may  
4 apply jointly for a grant and jointly establish and operate one  
5 or more task forces.

6 (b) Grants.--

7 (1) The commission shall award grants to political  
8 subdivisions that apply to the commission for funds to assist  
9 in establishing and operating task forces.

10 (2) The commission shall base the number of grants on  
11 the amount of funds appropriated by the Federal or State  
12 Government and other funds available for the purposes of this  
13 act.

14 (3) The amount of a specific grant shall be based on  
15 information required by the commission and provided by the  
16 political subdivision specifying the costs directly related  
17 to establishing and maintaining a task force.

18 (c) Use of grants.--

19 (1) A political subdivision may use a grant awarded  
20 under this act for equipment and supplies, personnel and  
21 training and any other costs directly related to establishing  
22 and operating a task force.

23 (2) A task force must be established as a separate unit  
24 within a police department.

25 (d) Monitoring and reporting.--

26 (1) The commission shall monitor a political  
27 subdivision's use of any grants awarded under this act and  
28 may require an accounting of the use of the funds.

29 (2) The commission shall annually report to the  
30 Judiciary Committee of the Senate and the Judiciary Committee

1 of the House of Representatives on the program. The report  
2 shall include the number and the amount of the grants  
3 awarded, the political subdivisions receiving the grants and  
4 any other relevant information.

5 Section 5. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.