THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL No. 2094 Session of 1978

INTRODUCED BY WHITE, BERSON, PRATT AND MILLER, MARCH 13, 1978

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 13, 1978

AN ACT

Relating to criminal history record information; protection of 2 individual right to privacy; completeness and accuracy of 3 such information; control of dissemination; establishment of guidelines for security; provision for quality control; the right of individuals to inspect, review and challenge the accuracy of such information; establishment of a council to oversee the administration of this act; and providing penalties for violations of this act. 8 9 TABLE OF CONTENTS Section 1. Short title. 10 11 Section 2. Definitions. 12 3. Section Powers of the Attorney General. 13 Section 4. Duties of criminal justice agencies. 14 Section 5. Grounds for expungement. Section 6. Procedures after expungement. 15 16 Section 7. Dissemination of criminal history record 17 information. Section 8. Permitted disclosure. 18 Disclosure of certain information. 19 Section 9. 20 Section 10. Disclosure of personal history, medical history, 21 educational history, employment history, bail,

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- 24 Section 29. Civil actions.
- 25 Section 30. Criminal penalties.
- 26 Section 31. Waiver of immunity.
- 27 Section 32. Repealer.
- 28 Section 33. Effective date.
- 29 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- 30 hereby enacts as follows:

- 1 Section 1. Short title.
- 2 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Criminal
- 3 History Record Information Act."
- 4 Section 2. Definitions.
- 5 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
- 6 have the meanings given to them in this section, unless the
- 7 context clearly indicates otherwise:
- 8 "Administration of criminal justice." The activities
- 9 directly concerned with crime prevention, control or reduction;
- 10 the apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial
- 11 release, prosecution, defense, adjudication, correctional
- 12 supervision or rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal
- 13 offenders; criminal identification activities; or the
- 14 collection, storage, dissemination or usage of criminal justice
- 15 information.
- 16 "Audit." The process of reviewing compliance with applicable
- 17 Federal and State laws and regulations related to the privacy
- 18 and security of criminal history record information.
- 19 "Automated system." An information system that utilizes
- 20 electronic computers, central computerized information storage
- 21 facilities, telecommunications lines, or other automatic data
- 22 processing equipment used wholly or in part for data
- 23 dissemination, collection, analysis, or display as distinguished
- 24 from a system in which such activities are performed manually.
- 25 "Bail information." The information concerning factors
- 26 relevant to eligibility for various types of release and similar
- 27 information compiled in connection with pretrial and post-trial
- 28 bail and related release determinations.
- 29 "Caution indicator information." The information concerning
- 30 a person's potential danger to himself or others including

- 1 whether or not he or she: is armed, is a self-professed militant
- 2 or revolutionary, has a history of mental or emotional
- 3 disturbance, is suicidal, is overly aggressive, is overly
- 4 passive, has openly expressed racial or ethnic hatred,
- 5 threatened to assault law enforcement or correctional personnel,
- 6 or is affiliated with any organized gang or like group, and
- 7 similar information.
- 8 "Central repository." The central location for the
- 9 compilation, maintenance and dissemination of criminal history
- 10 record information by the Pennsylvania State Police.
- "Conviction record information." The criminal history record
- 12 information disclosing that a person has pleaded guilty or nolo
- 13 contendere to or was convicted of any criminal offense,
- 14 sentencing and pardon information.
- 15 "Correctional information." The information concerning a
- 16 person which is not criminal history or current case and status
- 17 information and which is compiled by a criminal justice or
- 18 noncriminal justice agency in connection with correctional
- 19 treatment, incarceration or supervision including information
- 20 concerning the physical and mental condition of a person,
- 21 information concerning the behavior or discipline of persons in
- 22 correctional institutions, diagnostic information, information
- 23 on participants in pretrial diversion, community-based and other
- 24 correctional and rehabilitative programs and information
- 25 relating to the granting or revocation of parole or discharge.
- 26 Correctional information does not include presentence
- 27 investigation reports whose creation, maintenance and disclosure
- 28 are governed by statute or rule of court.
- 29 "Criminal history information." The information, other than
- 30 current case and status information, which arises from the

- 1 initiation of one or more criminal proceedings, is compiled by
- 2 one or more criminal justice agencies and consists of
- 3 identification record information and line-entry form notations
- 4 of charges, bail releases, detentions, arrests, indictments,
- 5 complaints, information, and/or other formal initiation of
- 6 criminal proceedings and/or or any events and outcomes arising
- 7 from those arrests, releases, detentions, indictments,
- 8 complaints, informations, or charges, including pleas, trials,
- 9 sentences, appeals, incarcerations, correctional supervision,
- 10 paroles and releases from custody. Criminal history information
- 11 shall not include indices or listing of the case or file numbers
- 12 of noncurrent criminal proceedings initiated against a person.
- 13 Criminal history information shall not mean information
- 14 concerning juveniles unless they have been adjudicated as
- 15 adults.
- 16 "Criminal incident information." The information concerning
- 17 a criminal incident or act including incident and agency
- 18 identification data, identification data regarding complainants
- 19 and witnesses, the date, time and place of the incident, the
- 20 types of criminal offenses allegedly committed, personnel
- 21 involved in the investigation of the incident or act, and
- 22 summaries prepared by law enforcement officers of facts
- 23 regarding the incident or act. It also means information filed
- 24 by or with a criminal justice agency describing a specific
- 25 criminal incident or act which is not indexed or accessible by
- 26 name of suspect or accused person.
- 27 "Criminal justice agency." Any court with criminal
- 28 jurisdiction including minor judiciary or any other governmental
- 29 agency, or subunit thereof, created by statute or State or
- 30 Federal constitution, specifically authorized to perform as its

- 1 principal function the administration of criminal justice, and
- 2 which allocates a substantial portion of its annual budget to
- 3 such function. Criminal justice agencies include, but are not
- 4 limited to: organized State and municipal police departments,
- 5 jails, prisons, detention facilities, correctional agencies,
- 6 probation agencies, district or prosecuting attorneys, parole
- 7 boards and pardon boards.
- 8 "Criminal justice information." Any information defined in
- 9 this section, compiled or maintained by or for a criminal
- 10 justice agency.
- "Criminal justice intelligence information." The information
- 12 associated with or identifiable to a named person compiled by a
- 13 criminal justice agency for the purpose of the administration of
- 14 criminal justice, the collection of which does not arise
- 15 directly from a specific criminal incident or the initiation of
- 16 specific criminal proceedings and which is not arrest record
- 17 information; criminal history information; nonconviction record
- 18 information; conviction record information; correctional
- 19 information; personal, employment, medical or educational
- 20 history information, bail information, identification record
- 21 information, wanted persons information, missing persons
- 22 information, modus operandi information, criminal justice
- 23 investigative information, criminal incident information,
- 24 caution indicator, stolen property or motor vehicle information.
- 25 "Criminal justice investigative information." The
- 26 information associated with an identifiable individual compiled
- 27 by a criminal justice agency in the course of conducting a
- 28 criminal investigation of a specific criminal act, including
- 29 information pertaining to that criminal act derived from reports
- 30 of informants and investigators, or from any type of

- 1 surveillance. The term does not include criminal incident
- 2 information.
- 3 "Current case and status information." The information on
- 4 the current status of pending adult criminal proceedings and the
- 5 current status and location of adults who are arrested or
- 6 summoned to appear in court, are under indictment or are being
- 7 prosecuted for any criminal offense, have pending an appeal from
- 8 any criminal conviction, are detained or incarcerated in any
- 9 correctional institution, or are subject to the jurisdiction or
- 10 supervision of any correctional, parole or probation agency.
- 11 Disposition information shall be considered current case and
- 12 status information for a period of 180 days following the final
- 13 disposition of any criminal proceeding, and removal from
- 14 jurisdiction of an agency ordered by the court.
- 15 "Disclosure." The communication of information to any person
- 16 or agency by any means.
- 17 "Disposition information." The information indicating that
- 18 criminal proceedings have been oncluded, including information
- 19 disclosing that the police have elected not to refer a matter to
- 20 a prosecuting authority, that a prosecuting authority has
- 21 elected not to commence criminal proceedings, or that a grand
- 22 jury has failed to indict and disclosing the nature of the
- 23 termination of the proceedings; or information disclosing that
- 24 proceedings have been indefinitely postponed and also disclosing
- 25 the reason for such postponement. Dispositions for criminal
- 26 proceedings in Pennsylvania shall include, but not be limited
- 27 to, acquittal, acquittal by reason of insanity, pretrial
- 28 probation or diversion, charge dismissed, guilty plea, nolle
- 29 prosequi, no information filed, nolo contendere plea, convicted,
- 30 juvenile determination transferred, abatement, discharge under

- 1 Rule 1100 or 6013 of the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal
- 2 Procedure concerning prompt trials, demurrer sustained,
- 3 pardoned, mistrial-defendant discharged, discharge from
- 4 probation or parole or correctional supervision, or any other
- 5 disposition authorized by the General Assembly. Dispositions for
- 6 criminal proceedings in order jurisdictions shall include, but
- 7 not be limited to, the above dispositions and acquittal by
- 8 reason of mental incompetence, case continued without a finding,
- 9 charge dismissed because of insanity, charge dismissed because
- 10 of mental incompetence, no paper, youthful offender
- 11 determination, deceased, dismissed-civil action, found insane,
- 12 found mentally incompetent, sentence commuted, executive
- 13 clemency.
- 14 "Educational history information." The information
- 15 concerning a person's educational accomplishments, dates of
- 16 school attendance, and schools attended and similar information.
- 17 "Employment history information." The information concerning
- 18 a person's occupation, present and past employment, dates and
- 19 places of employment, income, union affiliations, and similar
- 20 information.
- 21 "Expunge."
- 22 (1) To remove information from an information system so
- 23 that there is no trace of information within the system and
- 24 no indication indication that such information existed; and
- 25 (2) to eliminate all identifiers which may be used to
- 26 trace the identity of an individual, allowing remaining data
- 27 to be used for statistical purposes.
- "Identification record information." The name, fingerprints,
- 29 fingerprint classifications, voice prints, photographs,
- 30 identifying numbers, and other descriptive or identifying data

- 1 concerning a person, compiled in connection with criminal
- 2 proceedings, which would assist with his or her identification.
- 3 "Information system." A system whether automated or manual,
- 4 operated or leased by Federal, regional, State, or local
- 5 government or governments, including the equipment, facilities,
- 6 procedures, agreements, and organizations thereof, for the
- 7 collection, processing, preservation, or dissemination of
- 8 information.
- 9 "Medical history information." The information concerning a
- 10 person's medical condition, dates and types of medical
- 11 treatment, the names of treating physicians or other therapists,
- 12 the results of treatment, drug use or addiction and any
- 13 treatment for it, psychiatric and psychological evaluations,
- 14 dates and types of psychiatric and psychological treatment and
- 15 its results, and similar information.
- 16 "Missing persons information." The identification record and
- 17 other information concerning a person who is reported to a
- 18 criminal justice agency to be missing and who is not a wanted
- 19 person.
- 20 "Modus operandi information." The information concerning
- 21 identifiable individuals which is organized by other than
- 22 identification record information, including information
- 23 accessible by offense characteristics or method of criminal
- 24 operation.
- 25 "Motor vehicle record information." The records and data
- 26 maintained for or by the Department of Transportation for the
- 27 purpose of regulating the issuance, suspension, revocation or
- 28 renewal of drivers' and other licenses or vehicle registrations
- 29 or for the purpose of maintaining records of motor vehicle
- 30 offenses or traffic accidents.

- 1 "Nonconviction record information." The criminal history
- 2 record information which is not conviction record information.
- 3 "Organized criminal activity." Any activity which is of a
- 4 conspiratorial and organized nature and which:
- 5 (1) seeks to supply illegal goods and services such as
- 6 narcotics, prostitution, loansharking, gambling, and other
- 7 similar goods and services;
- 8 (2) seeks to conduct through planning and coordination
- 9 of individual efforts continuing activities, a substantial
- 10 portion of which are illegal;
- 11 (3) seeks to corrupt public officials or obstruct the
- 12 administration of criminal justice; or
- 13 (4) seeks or intrude into legitimate business activities
- by use of illegal methods or perpetrate commercial frauds.
- 15 "Personal history information." The information concerning a
- 16 person's relationships to or associations with other persons,
- 17 membership in criminal gangs, summary of income, assets and
- 18 liabilities, marital and family situation, and similar
- 19 information.
- 20 "Secondary dissemination." The transfer of criminal history
- 21 record information received from a repository or confirmation of
- 22 the existence or nonexistence of criminal history record
- 23 information received from a repository.
- 24 "Statistical information." The information, records or
- 25 reports in which specific persons arrested or prosecuted for
- 26 criminal offenses where identification record information is not
- 27 included.
- 28 "Stolen property information." The information with respect
- 29 to identifiable personal property including motor vehicles and
- 30 license plates which is reported to law enforcement agencies to

- 1 be stolen.
- 2 "Wanted persons record information." The information about a
- 3 person who is an escapee from custody or against whom there is
- 4 an outstanding arrest warrant. It includes the fact of the
- 5 warrant and charge for which it was issued, information relevant
- 6 to the individual's danger to the community, identification
- 7 record information, and other information that would facilitate
- 8 the apprehension of the individual.
- 9 Section 3. Powers of the Attorney General.
- 10 The Attorney General or his designee shall have the power to
- 11 collect complete and accurate criminal history record
- 12 information from all criminal justice agencies within the
- 13 Commonwealth, for statistical purposes and for use by the
- 14 Central Repository for the maintenance of complete and accurate
- 15 criminal history record information and to prescribe the form
- 16 and content of records which must be kept by such criminal
- 17 justice agencies in order to ensure the correct reporting of
- 18 data.
- 19 Section 4. Duties of criminal justice agencies.
- 20 (a) It shall be the duty of every criminal justice agency
- 21 within the Commonwealth to maintain complete and accurate
- 22 criminal history record information as required by the Attorney
- 23 General and to report such information to the Attorney General
- 24 or his designee at such times and in such manner as required by
- 25 the provisions of this act.
- 26 (b) All criminal justice agencies, including but not limited
- 27 to, courts, county and State correctional institutions and
- 28 parole and probation agencies, must submit to the Attorney
- 29 General, or his designee, reports of dispositions occurring
- 30 within their respective agencies for statistical or criminal

- 1 history purposes within 90 days of the date of such disposition.
- 2 (c) Upon detection of inaccurate data in a criminal history
- 3 record, regardless of the manner of discovery, the criminal
- 4 justice agency which reported the information must, at minimum,
- 5 comply with the following procedure to effect correction:
- 6 (1) correct its own records; and
- 7 (2) notify all recipients, including the Central
- 8 Repository, of the inaccurate data and the required
- 9 correction.
- 10 (d) All criminal justice agencies within the Commonwealth
- 11 are required to check with the Central Repository before
- 12 disseminating criminal history record information except when
- 13 urgency to provide such information does not permit the required
- 14 check. Those situations requiring waiver of the mandated check
- 15 shall be determined by the Privacy and Security Council.
- 16 (e) Any criminal justice agency which disseminates criminal
- 17 history record information without making the prescribed check
- 18 with the Central Repository must indicated to the recipient that
- 19 the information disseminated is only that information contained
- 20 in its own file and that a more complete record can be obtained
- 21 from the Central Repository.
- 22 Section 5. Grounds for expungement.
- 23 (a) All criminal history information with respect to an
- 24 accused person concerning a specific criminal proceeding shall
- 25 be expunged if:
- 26 (1) a judge of a court of record validly so orders;
- 27 (2) the defendant has received a full and final pardon
- for any offenses of which he or she was convicted in such
- 29 proceeding;
- 30 (3) a statute or rule of the Supreme Court so requires;

- 1 (4) a police agency has elected to drop charges prior to 2 the initiation of prosecution;
- (5) no disposition has been received or, upon request for criminal history record information, no disposition has been recorded in the repository within 18 months after the date of arrest and a review verifies that no disposition is
- 7 available and no action is pending;
- 8 (6) all charges in such proceeding have been dismissed 9 or the defendant has been found not guilty by reasons other 10 than insanity;
- 11 (7) the accused person has no prior convictions for a
 12 criminal offense and three years have elapsed from the date
 13 of the final disposition and release from confinement or
 14 supervision from such criminal proceeding and the accused
 15 person has had no other arrests or convictions for a criminal
 16 offense;
- 17 (8) statistical information may be maintained with
 18 respect to such proceeding and no other criminal justice
 19 information may be expunged unless a court of record validly
 20 so orders; or
- 21 (9) original records of entry maintained chronologically shall not be expunded.
- 23 (b) Criminal history record information may be expunged
- 25 (1) an individual who is the subject of the information 26 reaches 65 years of age and has been free of arrest or 27 prosecution for ten years following final release from 28 confinement or supervision; or
- 29 (2) an individual who is the subject of the information 30 has been dead for three years.

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when:

- 1 Section 6. Procedures after expungement.
- 2 (a) Any criminal justice agency which contributes criminal
- 3 justice information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- 4 shall, if such information is subsequently expunged, notify the
- 5 Federal Bureau of Investigation's Identification Division and
- 6 National Crime Information Center of such expungement and
- 7 request the return and expungement of any information
- 8 contributed by it.
- 9 (b) In the event that any information is expunged, all
- 10 agencies or persons to whom such information has been disclosed
- 11 shall be promptly notified by an agency which has expunged
- 12 information of such action and the constraints on maintenance of
- 13 such information.
- 14 (c) If there is no information concerning the person with
- 15 respect to whom an inquiry is made, or if all information with
- 16 respect to such person has been expunged and may not be
- 17 disclosed, then the response shall be "no information on file."
- 18 Section 7. Dissemination of criminal history record
- information.
- 20 (a) Prior to the disclosure of any information the
- 21 appropriate official shall take all reasonable steps to insure
- 22 that information is current, accurate, complete and, on its
- 23 face, is not subject to expungemet.
- 24 (b) No secondary dissemination of criminal history record
- 25 information is permitted except as provided for by this act.
- 26 (c) No duplication of criminal history record information by
- 27 any agency or individual receiving criminal history record
- 28 information is permitted except as provided for in this act.
- 29 (d) All individuals or agencies receiving information
- 30 covered under this act must return to the disseminating agency

- 1 or destroy, in accordance with an agreement with the repository,
- 2 all such information received upon completion of the specific
- 3 purpose for which the information was received.
- 4 (e) All criminal justice agencies disseminating criminal
- 5 justice information must maintain a chronological listing of all
- 6 persons and agencies to whom they have disseminated such
- 7 information. Such listing must be maintained for at least two
- 8 years from the date of dissemination and must, at minimum,
- 9 include the date of dissemination the items of information
- 10 released, the name of the person or agency to whom criminal
- 11 justice information was disseminated and the purpose for which
- 12 such information was given.
- 13 (f) Repositories must enter as a permanent part of an
- 14 individual's criminal justice information file a listing
- 15 separate from the record itself of all persons and agencies to
- 16 whom they have disseminated that particular criminal justice
- 17 information and the date and purpose for which the information
- 18 was disseminated.
- 19 (q) Repositories shall ensure that information covered under
- 20 this act is disseminated only to agencies or individuals
- 21 authorized by the provisions of this act to receive such
- 22 information.
- 23 (h) No agency or individual shall confirm or deny in any
- 24 manner the existence or nonexistence of criminal justice
- 25 information to any person or agency not eligible to receive the
- 26 information itself.
- 27 (i) Any noncriminal justice official, agency or organization
- 28 requesting criminal justice information must sign a contract
- 29 with the repository from which it is seeking criminal justice
- 30 information, agreeing to abide by the provisions of this act.

- 1 Any such noncriminal justice official, agency or organization
- 2 entering into such a contract with a repository is bound by and
- 3 subject to the provisions of this act.
- 4 (j) No criminal justice information acquired from any agency
- 5 or individual shall be permanently incorporated into the files
- 6 of the agency which requested such information.
- 7 Section 8. Permitted disclosure.
- 8 All information shall be promptly disclosed to any person
- 9 requesting the same unless such disclosure is otherwise
- 10 prohibited or conditioned by this act or any other statute.
- 11 Section 9. Disclosure of certain information.
- 12 Criminal incident and investigative information shall be
- 13 disclosed to any person upon request unless the agency having
- 14 the information affirmatively determines that its disclosure
- 15 will impede or affect any active or pending criminal
- 16 investigation or prosecution, will endanger the life, property
- 17 or physical security of any person.
- 18 Section 10. Disclosure of personal history, medical history,
- 19 educational history, employment history, bail,
- 20 caution indicator and correctional information.
- 21 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this act, personal
- 22 history, medical history, educational history, employment
- 23 history, bail and caution indicator may be disclosed only with
- 24 the informed consent of the subject of such information.
- 25 Correctional information may be disclosed without informed
- 26 consent if authorized by this act or any other statute.
- 27 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) to the contrary
- 28 notwithstanding such information may be disclosed without the
- 29 subject's consent to:
- 30 (1) judges of competent jurisdiction, correctional

- 1 agencies, defense counsel and officials and such other
- 2 governmental agencies and officials in this State and other
- 3 states and in the Federal Government who require such
- 4 information for determinations with respect to investigation
- 5 prosecution, adjudication, sentencing or rehabilitation of
- 6 such person;
- 7 (2) public and private agencies, organizations and
- 8 persons in this State which by formal agreement discharge
- 9 some portion of a correctional agency's or official's
- 10 statutory responsibilities with respect to such person; and
- 11 (3) medical and mental health personnel and facilities
- for purposes of diagnosis and treatment.
- 13 (c) Such information may not be maintained in an automated
- 14 information system.
- 15 Section 11. Disclosure of statistical and aggregate information.
- 16 (a) Any statistical information contained in a statistical
- 17 report or aggregation of information routinely prepared by a
- 18 criminal justice agency shall be made available for inspection
- 19 and copying by any person during normal business hours.
- 20 (b) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit
- 21 disclosure of the identity of any criminal justice official or
- 22 employee in any report or aggregation of information.
- 23 (c) If any statistical information is requested which is not
- 24 contained in any statistical report or aggregation of
- 25 information routinely prepared, the person requesting the
- 26 information shall apply in writing to the appropriate criminal
- 27 justice agencies. The application shall be granted if the
- 28 requesting party pays the actual cost of compiling the
- 29 information, including the cost of any programming, computer
- 30 time and associated personnel expenditures.

- 1 (d) An agency holding criminal justice information which is
- 2 not generally available for disclosure may disclose it for the
- 3 limited purposes of research, evaluation or statistical analyses
- 4 to persons not otherwise authorized.
- 5 (e) No information may be disclosed to such persons except
- 6 pursuant to a written agreement between the agency holding it
- 7 and the persons to whom it is to be disclosed. All researchers
- 8 to which information is disclosed are bound by and subject to
- 9 the provisions of this act.
- 10 (f) The agreement shall specify the information to be
- 11 disclosed, the persons to whom it is to be disclosed, the
- 12 purposes for which it is to be used, the precautions to be taken
- 13 to insure the security and confidentiality of the information
- 14 and the sanctions for improper disclosure or use.
- 15 (g) Persons to whom information is disclosed under the
- 16 provisions of this section shall not without the subject's prior
- 17 written consent disclose or publish such information in such
- 18 manner that it will reveal the identity of such subject.
- 19 (h) Any criminal justice agency has the right to withhold
- 20 information from any researcher whom they feel is not associated
- 21 with a bona fide research organization or whose interest is to
- 22 serve an illegal purpose. Decisions of an agency in these
- 23 matters can be appealed to the Privacy and Security Council.
- 24 Section 12. Retention of criminal justice intelligence
- 25 information.
- 26 (a) Criminal justice intelligence information and criminal
- 27 justice intelligence information systems shall be maintained
- 28 separate from other information and information systems. The
- 29 data shall have appended to it the source and an indication of
- 30 the reliability of such information.

- 1 (b) Criminal justice intelligence information may not be
- 2 maintained in an automated information system.
- 3 (c) All criminal justice intelligence information shall be
- 4 reviewed by the holding agency at regular intervals and also
- 5 upon every disclosure outside the agency to determine if it is
- 6 current and accurate and that grounds continue to exist to
- 7 maintain it. If such grounds do not exist or the information is
- 8 inaccurate or incomplete and the deficiency cannot be remedied,
- 9 then it shall promptly be destroyed.
- 10 (d) Such information shall be assigned a security
- 11 classification and be so marked and may be disclosed only to
- 12 persons holding the appropriate clearance.
- 13 Section 13. Disclosure of intelligence information.
- 14 (a) Criminal justice intelligence information may be
- 15 disclosed only to:
- 16 (1) employees of the holding agency having a need and
- 17 right to know and specifically designated by its executive
- 18 head; or
- 19 (2) State and local police departments and prosecuting
- 20 authorities in this and other states and similar agencies of
- 21 the Federal Government:
- (i) who are actively investigating the subject of
- 23 the information and provide to the holding agency
- 24 specific and articulable facts which taken together with
- 25 rational inferences from these facts warrant the
- 26 conclusion that the subject has committed or is about to
- 27 commit a specific serious crime or engage in a specific
- 28 organized criminal activity;
- 29 (ii) who request confirmation of the reliability of
- 30 specific criminal justice intelligence information

- 1 already in their possession; or
- 2 (iii) who, on behalf of a State or Federal executive
- or legislative agency, are conducting a background
- 4 investigation to determine the suitability of the subject
- for appointment to a judicial or high-ranking executive
- office or the granting of a top secret or greater
- 7 security clearance or its equivalent.
- 8 (b) The executive head of the holding agency or officers
- 9 specifically designated by him shall prior to any disclosure
- 10 outside his agency approve the same in writing.
- 11 (c) Except for disclosures required to achieve the purposes
- 12 of background investigations described above no criminal justice
- 13 intelligence information may be redisclosed outside the
- 14 requesting agency for any purpose and such information may be
- 15 retained by the recipient no longer than is necessary to achieve
- 16 the purposes for which it was disclosed at which point all
- 17 copies and traces of it shall promptly be returned.
- 18 (d) Information disclosed under the provisions of this
- 19 section shall be limited to that which is relevant to the
- 20 specific felony or organized criminal activity described by the
- 21 requesting party.
- 22 (e) Nothing in this act shall prevent disclosure of criminal
- 23 justice intelligence information to any governmental official or
- 24 employee when necessary to avoid an imminent danger to life,
- 25 serious damage to valuable property or a grave threat to public
- 26 order.
- 27 Section 14. Right to challenge.
- 28 (a) Each person shall have the right to challenge the
- 29 accuracy, completeness or maintenance of criminal history record
- 30 information, pertaining to him or her and request in writing

- 1 supplementation, modification or elimination of such
- 2 information. Each person exercising his right of inspection and
- 3 copying shall be informed of his right to so challenge.
- 4 (b) All criminal justice agencies shall have 60 days to
- 5 conduct a review of any challenge and shall have the burden of
- 6 proving the accuracy of the record.
- 7 If the challenge is deemed valid, the appropriate officials
- 8 must ensure that:
- 9 (1) The criminal history record information is
- 10 corrected.
- 11 (2) A certified and corrected copy is sent to the
- 12 individual.
- 13 (3) Prior erroneous criminal history record information
- 14 disseminated to criminal justice agencies shall be destroyed
- or returned and replaced with corrected information.
- 16 (4) The individual is supplied with the names of those
- 17 noncriminal justice agencies and individuals which have
- 18 received erroneous criminal history record information.
- 19 (c) (1) If the challenge is ruled invalid, or if the relief
- 20 supplied is deemed inadequate, an individual has the right to
- 21 appeal the decision of the agency to the Privacy and Security
- 22 Council within 30 days of notification of the decision by the
- 23 criminal justice agency for the purpose of obtaining
- 24 administrative relief.
- 25 (2) The Privacy and Security Council shall have the
- 26 authority to conduct administrative appeal hearings in
- 27 accordance with the act of June 4, 1945 (P.L.1388, No.442),
- 28 known as the "Administrative Agency Law."
- 29 (3) The decision of the Privacy and Security Council may
- 30 be further challenged in a court of proper jurisdiction by an

- 1 aggrieved individual.
- 2 Section 15. Individual rights on access and review.
- 3 (a) Any individual exercising his or her right to access and
- 4 review under the provisions of this chapter, shall be informed
- 5 when criminal history record information is made available that
- 6 he or she is under no obligation to divulge such information to
- 7 any person or agency.
- 8 (b) If a person exercising his right to inspect and copy
- 9 information pertaining to him or her is incarcerated, a duly
- 10 authorized correctional employee shall obtain a copy of such
- 11 information and deliver it to the subject.
- 12 (c) Upon written application from the subject of information
- 13 and adequate verification of his or her identity, the agency
- 14 possessing such information shall permit inspection by such
- 15 person's attorney at law or legal guardian, holding a sworn
- 16 authorization from such person, without personal appearance by
- 17 the subject of the information.
- 18 Section 16. Requirements of repositories relating to public
- 19 notice.
- 20 Repositories maintaining criminal history record information
- 21 must annually inform the public of the existence, purpose, use
- 22 and accessibility of the criminal history record information
- 23 they maintain by annual publication. The annual publication
- 24 shall also include the standards maintained by the repository
- 25 for identification on individual access and review. The cost of
- 26 this annual publication shall be borne by the respective
- 27 repositories.
- 28 Section 17. Inspection of other information.
- 29 A person shall have the right to inspect and challenge
- 30 personal history, medical history, educational history,

- 1 employment history, bail, caution indicator and correctional
- 2 information about him or her as provided herein. However, the
- 3 agency maintaining such information may deny a person the
- 4 opportunity to inspect such information if it affirmatively
- 5 determines, with reasons in writing and with a copy to the
- 6 subject of the information, that the potential harm to the
- 7 subject and/or other persons outweighs the benefits of such
- 8 inspection. A denial of the right of inspection or challenge
- 9 shall be appealable as provided herein.
- 10 Section 18. Protection against loss, damage, harm or
- 11 unauthorized access.
- 12 Each criminal justice agency shall take appropriate measures
- 13 to protect criminal justice information or facilities against
- 14 accidental loss of injury, intentional harm, or unauthorized
- 15 access as the Privacy and Security Council shall prescribe by
- 16 regulation.
- 17 Section 19. Security measures.
- 18 Security measures taken shall include, but not be limited to:
- 19 (1) Physical security, including measures to protect
- 20 against fire, flood, power failure, sabotage, assault, theft
- 21 or unauthorized access.
- 22 (2) Personnel security, including but not limited to
- 23 investigations as to the character of officers, employees and
- 24 contractors assigned to criminal justice information systems,
- 25 security clearances and security training.
- 26 (3) Select, supervise, educate and train all personnel
- 27 authorized to have access to criminal history record
- information.
- 29 (4) Ensure that, where computerized data processing is
- 30 employed, the equipment utilized for maintaining criminal

- 1 history record information is solely dedicated to purposes
- 2 related to the administration of criminal justice, or, if the
- 3 equipment is not used solely for the administration of
- 4 criminal justice, the criminal justice agency shall be
- 5 accorded equal management participation in computer
- 6 operations used to maintain the criminal history record
- 7 information.
- 8 (5) Provide that criminal history record information
- 9 maintained in a repository is disseminated upon proper
- 10 validation only to those individuals and agencies authorized
- 11 to receive the information by the provisions of this act.
- 12 Section 20. Security administration and sanctions.
- 13 (a) Such criminal justice agency shall designate a security
- 14 officer who may be the head of such agency who shall be
- 15 responsible for implementation and monitoring of security
- 16 procedures.
- 17 (b) The security officer shall:
- 18 (1) be promptly informed of all suspected security
- 19 violations;
- 20 (2) routinely audit all data access and dissemination
- 21 logs;
- 22 (3) conduct an active program of affirmative security
- 23 testing;
- 24 (4) promptly investigate any security violations or
- 25 suspected misuse or unauthorized access to information
- 26 systems;
- 27 (5) conduct programs of security education; and
- 28 (6) assist and advise the agency head and the Attorney
- 29 General with respect to their security responsibilities.
- 30 (c) Each agency and person authorized access to criminal

- 1 justice information disclosure which is restricted by this act
- 2 shall prior to such access enter into an agreement to abide by
- 3 this act and any security standards promulgated hereunder.
- 4 Section 21. Reporting of unserved arrest warrants.
- 5 Any person or agency given an arrest or similar warrant or
- 6 order to serve shall submit to the Attorney General or his
- 7 designee detailed descriptions of any warrants and related
- 8 identifying data which have not been served within 30 days of
- 9 their issuance. If the warrant is subsequently served or
- 10 withdrawn the serving person or agency must immediately notify
- 11 such department and the agency or official which requested such
- 12 warrant of its service or withdrawal. The Attorney General or
- 13 his designee must at least every 90 days confirm the validity of
- 14 each arrest warrant which has not been removed.
- 15 Section 22. Removal of information.
- 16 (a) All criminal justice agencies within the State shall, if
- 17 at any time after making a report as herein required it is
- 18 determined by the reporting department or agency that a person
- 19 is no longer wanted due to his apprehension or any other factor
- 20 or when a stolen vehicle or property is recovered, within 48
- 21 hours notify the Attorney General or his designee of such
- 22 status. If the agency making such apprehension or recovery is
- 23 other than the one which made the original wanted person or
- 24 stolen property report, then it shall immediately notify the
- 25 originating agency of the full particulars relating to such
- 26 apprehension or recovery.
- 27 (b) The originating agency shall be the only agency entitled
- 28 to remove information reported by it and shall do so promptly
- 29 upon verification of the apprehension of a wanted person or
- 30 recovery of stolen property as the case may be.

- 1 Section 23. Reporting stolen property.
- 2 All criminal justice agencies within the Commonwealth shall
- 3 report to the Attorney General or his designee in a manner
- 4 prescribed by him all motor vehicle and identifiable personal
- 5 property stolen within their jurisdictions. The report shall be
- 6 made as soon as is practical but in no event later than 12 hours
- 7 after the investigating department or agency ascertains that a
- 8 motor vehicle or identifiable personal property has been stolen.
- 9 Section 24. Annual audit of repositories.
- 10 (a) The Privacy and Security Council must establish an
- 11 auditing team to conduct annual audits, tests, inspections or
- 12 examinations, with or without notice, of the Central Repository
- 13 and of a representative sample of not less than 3% of all
- 14 repositories within the Commonwealth collecting, storing and
- 15 disseminating criminal justice information to ensure that the
- 16 provisions of this act are upheld.
- 17 (b) Persons conducting the audit shall be provided access to
- 18 all records, reports and listings required for the conduct of
- 19 such audit, and all persons with access to criminal justice
- 20 information or authorized to receive disclosure of such
- 21 information must cooperate with and provide information
- 22 requested by the auditing team.
- 23 (c) The auditing team shall prepare a report of deficiencies
- 24 and recommendations for the correction of such deficiencies.
- 25 Upon the completion of every audit, the audited agency must
- 26 carry out the recommendations unless the audit report is
- 27 appealed to the Privacy and Security Council and the appeal is
- 28 upheld.
- 29 (d) The Privacy and Security Council shall have the power to
- 30 modify the the corrective measures ordered by the auditing team.

- 1 (e) The Privacy and Security Council shall have the power to
- 2 impose administrative sanctions it deems proper upon any agency
- 3 that does not cooperate with the auditing team or does not fully
- 4 implement the corrective measures ordered by the auditing team
- 5 or the council.
- 6 Section 25. Quality control.
- 7 Each repository must establish effective procedures, approved
- 8 by the Privacy and Security Council, for reviewing the
- 9 completeness and accuracy of criminal history record information
- 10 maintained within such repository.
- 11 Section 26. Privacy and Security Council.
- 12 (a) There shall be a Privacy and Security Council,
- 13 hereinafter called the council, which shall consist of the
- 14 Attorney General and eight other persons, to be named as
- 15 follows: the Governor shall appoint five members, including a
- 16 private citizen, a representative from the media, one police
- 17 chief and one district attorney; the Chief Justice of the
- 18 Commonwealth shall appoint one member, the President pro tempore
- 19 of the Senate shall appoint one member, and the Speaker of the
- 20 House shall appoint one member. Of the members initially
- 21 appointed by the Governor, one shall serve for four years, two
- 22 shall serve for three years and two shall serve for two years.
- 23 The member appointed by the Chief Justice shall serve for four
- 24 years. Thereafter, all members shall serve for four years. Each
- 25 member shall serve until his successor is appointed and has
- 26 qualified. The chairman of the council shall be elected by and
- 27 from within the council to serve for a term of two years.
- 28 (b) The Privacy and Security Council shall function
- 29 independently of, but for administrative purposes shall be a
- 30 departmental administrative board in, the Department of Justice.

- 1 (c) The Attorney General shall provide such staff, clerical
- 2 and other assistance as the council may require. The council
- 3 shall meet at the call of the Governor, its chairman, or any
- 4 three of its members.
- 5 (d) Council members shall receive no compensation for their
- 6 services on the council but shall receive their expenses
- 7 necessarily incurred in the performance of official duties.
- 8 Section 27. Powers and duties.
- 9 (a) The Privacy and Security Council shall have the power
- 10 and authority to:
- 11 (1) Establish rules and regulations for the collection,
- 12 storage and use of information covered under this act with
- respect to security, completeness, accuracy, individual
- 14 access and review, quality control and audits of
- 15 repositories.
- 16 (2) Establish a uniform schedule of reasonable fees for
- 17 the costs of reproducing criminal justice information for
- 18 individual access and review and for research or statistical
- 19 purposes.
- 20 (3) Conduct hearings to further the purposes of this
- 21 act.
- 22 (4) Make investigations concerning all matters touching
- 23 the administration and enforcement of this act and the rules
- and regulations promulgated thereunder.
- 25 (5) Issue subpoenas over the signature of the chairman,
- 26 to require the attendance of witnesses and the production of
- 27 records and papers pertaining to any investigation or inquiry
- 28 concerning matters relating to this act. The fees for such
- 29 witnesses for travel and attendance shall be the same as for
- 30 witnesses appearing in the courts and shall be paid from

- appropriations for the incidental expenses of the council.
- 2 (6) Institute, through the Office of the Attorney
- 3 General, civil and criminal proceedings for violations of
- 4 this act and the rules and regulations adopted thereunder.
- 5 (7) Conduct annual audits of the Central Repository and
- of a representative sample of not less than 3% of all
- 7 repositories within the Commonwealth collecting, storing and
- 8 disseminating criminal history record information.
- 9 (8) Appoint such employees and agents as it may deem
- 10 necessary.
- 11 (9) Carry out all other powers and duties given to it by
- 12 this act.
- 13 (b) The council shall make an annual report to the Governor
- 14 and file a copy thereof with the Secretary of the Commonwealth
- 15 and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the
- 16 Secretary of the Senate. It may make such additional reports and
- 17 recommendations as it deems appropriate to carry out its duties.
- 18 The council shall appoint one or more of its members to serve
- 19 upon any similar council or committee connected with any
- 20 interstate system for the exchange of criminal justice
- 21 information, and may participate as it deems appropriate in the
- 22 activity of any such system.
- 23 Section 28. Penalties for violations.
- 24 Any person, including any agency or organization who violates
- 25 the provisions of this act or any regulations or rules
- 26 promulgated under it shall:
- 27 (1) Be denied access to specified record information for
- such period of time as a court or the Privacy and Security
- 29 Council deems appropriate.
- 30 (2) Be subject to civil or criminal penalties or other

- 1 remedies as provided for in this act.
- 2 (3) In the case of any employee of any agency be
- administratively disciplined by suspension, discharge,
- 4 reduction in grade, transfer or such other administrative
- 5 sanctions as the agency deems appropriate, such violation
- 6 constituting good and sufficient grounds for such action.
- 7 Section 29. Civil actions.
- 8 (a) Any person, including the council through the Attorney
- 9 General may institute a civil action in the court of proper
- 10 jurisdiction against any person, agency or organization to
- 11 enjoin any criminal justice agency, noncriminal justice agency,
- 12 organization or individual violating the provisions of this act
- 13 or to compel such agency, organization or person to comply with
- 14 the provisions of this act or regulation or rule promulgated
- 15 under it.
- 16 (b) (1) Any person aggrieved by a violation of the
- 17 provisions of this act or of the rules and regulations
- 18 adopted thereunder, shall have the substantive right to bring
- 19 an action for damages by reason of such violation in a court
- of competent jurisdiction.
- 21 (2) A person found, by the court, to have been aggrieved
- 22 by a violation of this act or the rules or regulations
- 23 adopted thereunder, shall be entitled to actual and real
- damages of \$100 for each violation and to reasonable costs of
- litigation and attorney's fees. Exemplary and punitive
- damages of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000 shall
- 27 be imposed for any violation of this act, or the rules or
- regulations adopted thereunder, found to be willful.
- 29 (c) In addition to any other civil or criminal penalty or
- 30 remedy, when a court, in proceedings instituted pursuant to this

- 1 act, finds that any of the provisions of this act have been
- 2 violated, any person shall have the substantive right to bring
- 3 an action against any employee who shall have willfully violated
- 4 the provisions of this act. If the court shall conclude that
- 5 such employee has in fact willfully violated the provisions of
- 6 this act, the court shall order the dismissal of said employee.
- 7 Section 30. Criminal penalties.
- 8 It shall be a summary offense punishable by a fine not less
- 9 than \$500 nor exceeding \$1,000 for:
- 10 (1) any person to request, obtain or seek to obtain
- criminal history record information in violation of this act;
- 12 or
- 13 (2) any person to disseminate, maintain or use criminal
- 14 history record information knowing such dissemination,
- maintenance or use to be in violation of this act.
- 16 Section 31. Waiver of immunity.
- 17 Any provision of the laws of this Commonwealth
- 18 notwithstanding, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, its agencies,
- 19 political subdivisions, boards, commission, councils or any
- 20 officers, agents or employees thereof, may be sued and held
- 21 liable for any violations of this act or the rules and
- 22 regulations adopted thereunder.
- 23 Section 32. Repealer.
- 24 All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar as they are
- 25 inconsistent herewith.
- 26 Section 33. Effective date.
- 27 This act shall take effect in 90 days.