

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 895

Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY HERSHEY, MORRIS, PITTS, RUDY, VROON, SCHULER,
BOOK, FLICK, SEMMEL, BUNT, PERZEL, KOSINSKI, GANNON, CLYMER,
BURD AND G. M. SNYDER, MAY 2, 1983

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 2, 1983

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing a defense
3 against civil and criminal liability for certain telephone
4 companies.

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

7 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 8337. Telephone company, civil and criminal immunity.

10 (a) Good faith cooperation to be a defense.--Good faith
11 cooperation by a telephone company with the request of a law
12 enforcement official to reroute or divert telephone lines for
13 the purpose of limiting communications in emergency situations
14 shall be a complete defense to any criminal or civil action
15 against the telephone company arising from that cooperation.

16 (b) Definitions.--As used in this section the following
17 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
18 subsection:

1 "Emergency situation." Any situation in which it is
2 reasonably believed that hostages have been taken or life is
3 threatened by the unlawful actions of any individual.

4 "Law enforcement official." The Attorney General, a district
5 attorney or any State or local police.

6 "Telephone company." Includes employees of telephone
7 companies.

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