

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1499 Session of  
1983

INTRODUCED BY CIMINI, LETTERMAN AND SALOOM, OCTOBER 3, 1983

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 3, 1983

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, making the registration  
3 number prima facie evidence that the owner was operating the  
4 vehicle.

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

7 Section 1. Section 6143 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes, amended December 20, 1982 (P.L.1409,  
9 No.326), is amended to read:

10 § 6143. Registration number as prima facie evidence of  
11 operation of vehicle.

12 [(a) General rule.--]In any action or proceeding for the  
13 recovery of a civil penalty for an infraction of the provisions  
14 of any law relating to the ownership or operation of any  
15 conveyance by air, land or water or any game or fish law or any  
16 local ordinance, rule or regulation relating thereto, the  
17 registration number displayed on a conveyance shall [sustain an  
18 inference] be prima facie evidence that the person to whom the

1 registration number was officially assigned is the owner of the  
2 conveyance and was then operating the conveyance.

3 [(b) Inference overcome by testimony of owner.--If at any  
4 proceeding under subsection (a) the owner testifies that the  
5 owner was not operating the conveyance at the time of the  
6 alleged infraction and submits to an examination as to who at  
7 the time was operating the conveyance and reveals the name and  
8 residence address of the person, if known, then the inference  
9 arising from the registration number shall be overcome.

10 (c) Inference overcome by verified statement of owner.--If  
11 the proceeding under subsection (a) is commenced in a county  
12 other than that of the residence of the owner and a verified  
13 written statement setting forth the facts set forth in  
14 subsection (b) is forwarded by the owner to the tribunal, the  
15 inference arising from the registration number shall be  
16 overcome.]

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