

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1144 Session of  
1999

INTRODUCED BY WALKO, REINARD, PETRONE, STURLA, HENNESSEY, RAMOS,  
ROSS, ARGALL, L. I. COHEN, COSTA, BUNT, WRIGHT, FICHTER,  
READSHAW, FREEMAN, McILHINNEY, MAHER, WOGAN, STEELMAN,  
E. Z. TAYLOR AND MANDERINO, MARCH 29, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, MARCH 29, 1999

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for  
3 jurisdiction and venue of the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court.

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

6 Section 1. Section 1143 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 1143. Jurisdiction and venue.

9 (a) General rule.--Except as otherwise prescribed by any  
10 general rule adopted pursuant to section 503 (relating to  
11 reassignment of matters) the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court shall  
12 have jurisdiction of all of the following matters:

13 (1) Criminal complaints accusing any person of the  
14 commission of any felony or misdemeanor, where such felony or  
15 misdemeanor has been committed within the corporate limits of  
16 the City of Pittsburgh, and to issue warrants for the arrest  
17 of such person so accused, administer oaths and hold

1 preliminary hearings in all such cases, and commit to jail,  
2 or bind over for trial or discharge such accused person, as  
3 the evidence produced at such hearing may warrant. The court  
4 shall have power to admit to bail as prescribed by general  
5 rules.

6 (2) Arrests upon view, or upon complaint made and  
7 warrant issued, by the police of the City of Pittsburgh, of  
8 persons who may be found engaged in or be charged with  
9 drunkenness, disorderly conduct, selling liquor contrary to  
10 law, maintaining a disorderly house or bawdy house, lewd,  
11 indecent or lascivious behavior on the streets or elsewhere,  
12 gambling, creating riots or disturbances, vagrants, beggars,  
13 prostitutes, disturbers of the public peace, known or reputed  
14 pickpockets, burglars, thieves, watch stuffers, cheating,  
15 swindling, persons who abuse their families, and suspicious  
16 persons who can give no reasonable account of themselves, or  
17 violating any of the laws or ordinances of such city.

18 (3) Civil claims for the recovery of fines and penalties  
19 imposed by any ordinance of the City of Pittsburgh, or by any  
20 ordinance or regulation relating to housing and health  
21 administered and enforced by a county health department where  
22 a violation takes place in such city, and cases of summary  
23 conviction arising under the laws and ordinances of or  
24 applicable to such city [and] instituted by the City of  
25 Pittsburgh or a private person or under the laws, ordinances,  
26 rules and regulations relating to housing and health  
27 administered and enforced by a county department of health  
28 where a violation takes place in such city, with full power  
29 to hear the said cases, administer oaths or affirmations  
30 therein, decide the same, enforce the penalty, collect the

1 fine or commit to prison as the case may be according to the  
2 provisions of the law and ordinances applicable thereto.

3 (4) Matters within the jurisdiction of the court when  
4 sitting as the Traffic Court of Pittsburgh.

5 (b) Venue and process.--The venue of the Pittsburgh  
6 Magistrates Court concerning matters over which jurisdiction is  
7 conferred by subsection (a) shall be as prescribed by general  
8 rule. The process of the court shall extend beyond the  
9 territorial limits of the City of Pittsburgh to the extent  
10 prescribed by general rule.

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