

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2926 Session of
2006

INTRODUCED BY DALLY, BELFANTI, CIVERA, CURRY, DENLINGER,
FREEMAN, GEIST, GILLESPIE, GOOD, GRUCELA, KILLION, KOTIK,
McILHATTAN, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, MUNDY, MUSTIO, O'NEILL,
PARKER, PICKETT, PYLE, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SCHRODER, SEMMEL,
SIPTROTH, SONNEY, R. STEVENSON, E. Z. TAYLOR, TURZAI AND
YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the
3 creation and maintenance of a will registry by the Secretary
4 of State.

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

7 Section 1. Title 20 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 2522. Creation, maintenance of will registry; fees.

10 (a) General rule.--A will registry shall be established and
11 maintained as follows:

12 (1) The Secretary of State shall create and maintain a
13 will registry in which a testator or the testator's attorney
14 may register information regarding the testator's will. The
15 information contained in the registry shall include the name
16 of the person making the will, the date the will was made and
17 sufficient identification of the location of the will at the

1 time of registration. The registry shall not contain a copy
2 of the will.

3 (2) The fee for registration of a will shall be \$10,
4 which shall be paid into the State Treasury for credit to the
5 general government operations appropriation of the Department
6 of State.

7 (3) The existence or nonexistence of a registration for
8 a particular will shall not be considered as evidence in any
9 proceeding relating to the will, and the failure to file
10 information about a will in the will registry shall not be a
11 factor in determining the validity of a will.

12 (4) The fee for application to the Secretary of State to
13 conduct a search of the registry shall be \$10, which shall be
14 paid into the State Treasury for credit to the general
15 government operations appropriation of the Department of
16 State. Only interested persons and their representatives may
17 conduct a search of the registry.

18 (5) The Secretary of State shall not be liable for the
19 accuracy of the representation of the person conducting a
20 search of the registry or for the accuracy of the information
21 contained in the registry.

22 (b) Regulations.--The Secretary of State shall promulgate
23 regulations to effectuate the provisions of this section.

24 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
25 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
26 subsection:

27 "Interested persons." Children, spouses, potential heirs,
28 devisees, fiduciaries, creditors, beneficiaries and any others
29 having a property right in or claim against a trust estate or
30 the estate of a decedent which may be affected by the

1 proceeding.

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