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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1143 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY SABATINA, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, COSTA,  
YUDICHAK, BARTOLOTTA, DINNIMAN, BOSCOLA, HAYWOOD AND BROWNE,  
MARCH 9, 2016

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 9, 2016

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in protection from abuse, further  
3 providing for commencement of proceedings.

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

6 Section 1. Section 6106(g) and (h) of Title 23 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

8 § 6106. Commencement of proceedings.

9 \* \* \*

10 (g) Service of petition and orders.--The petition and orders  
11 shall be served upon the defendant, and orders shall be served  
12 upon the police departments and sheriff with appropriate  
13 jurisdiction to enforce the orders. If orders are served in  
14 person on the defendant, service shall occur within six hours of  
15 the issuance of the orders. Orders shall be promptly served on  
16 the police and sheriff. Failure to serve shall not stay the  
17 effect of a valid order.

18 \* \* \*

1 (h) Assistance and advice to plaintiff.--The courts and  
2 hearing officers shall:

3 (1) Provide simplified forms and clerical assistance in  
4 English and Spanish to help with the writing and filing of  
5 the petition for a protection order for an individual not  
6 represented by counsel.

7 (2) Provide the plaintiff with written and oral  
8 referrals, in English and Spanish, to the local domestic  
9 violence program, to the local legal services office and to  
10 the county bar association's lawyer referral service.

11 (3) Provide a law enforcement officer, the sheriff or  
12 other designated agency or individual to accompany the  
13 plaintiff to the plaintiff's residence before or while the  
14 petition and orders are being served, if the plaintiff avers  
15 that such assistance is necessary to protect the safety of  
16 the plaintiff.

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