
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 87 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY LAWRENCE, BAKER, BARRAR, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE,
D. COSTA, GABLER, GILLEN, A. HARRIS, PHILLIPS-HILL, PICKETT,
READSHAW, WARD AND ZIMMERMAN, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further
3 providing for volunteers having contact with children.

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

6 Section 1. Section 6344.2(b.1) of Title 23 of the
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 6344.2. Volunteers having contact with children.

9 * * *

10 (b.1) Exception.--

11 (1) [A] Subject to paragraph (4), a person responsible
12 for the selection of volunteers under this chapter shall
13 require an applicable prospective volunteer prior to the
14 commencement of service to submit only the information under
15 section 6344(b)(1) and (2), if the following apply:

16 (i) The position the prospective volunteer is
17 applying for is unpaid.

18 (ii) The prospective volunteer has been a resident

1 of this Commonwealth during the entirety of the previous
2 10-year period or, if not a resident of this Commonwealth
3 during the entirety of the previous 10-year period, has
4 received certification under section 6344(b)(3) at any
5 time since establishing residency in this Commonwealth
6 and provides a copy of the certification to the person
7 responsible for the selection of volunteers.

8 (iii) The prospective volunteer swears or affirms in
9 writing that the prospective volunteer is not
10 disqualified from service pursuant to section 6344(c) or
11 has not been convicted of an offense similar in nature to
12 those crimes listed in section 6344(c) under the laws or
13 former laws of the United States or one of its
14 territories or possessions, another state, the District
15 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or a foreign
16 nation, or under a former law of this Commonwealth.

17 (2) If the information obtained pursuant to section
18 6344(b) reveals that the prospective volunteer applicant is
19 disqualified from service pursuant to section 6344(c), the
20 applicant shall not be approved for service.

21 (3) If all of the following apply, an individual shall
22 not be required to obtain the certifications required under
23 subsection (b):

24 (i) The individual is currently enrolled in a
25 school.

26 (ii) The individual is not a person responsible for
27 the child's welfare.

28 (iii) The individual is volunteering for an event
29 that occurs on school grounds.

30 (iv) The event is sponsored by the school in which

1 the individual is enrolled as a student.

2 (v) The event is not for children who are in the
3 care of a child-care service.

4 (4) This paragraph relates to the development and use of
5 a volunteer card issued by the Commonwealth that is designed
6 to facilitate the process that allows an individual to serve
7 as a volunteer in a position described under subsection (a).
8 The following shall apply:

9 (i) An individual may use the procedures developed
10 under this paragraph if:

11 (A) All the factors under paragraph (1) (i), (ii)
12 and (iii) apply.

13 (B) A statement from the Pennsylvania State
14 Police under section 6344(b) (1) reveals that the
15 State Police central repository contains no criminal
16 history record information relating to the
17 individual.

18 (C) A certification from the department under
19 section 6344(b) (2) reveals that the individual is not
20 named in the Statewide database as the alleged
21 perpetrator in a pending child abuse investigation or
22 as the perpetrator of a founded report or an
23 indicated report.

24 (ii) If all the factors under subparagraph (i) apply
25 to an individual, the individual may request a volunteer
26 card under subparagraph (iii). The individual may present
27 a valid volunteer card to a person responsible for the
28 selection of volunteers under this chapter in lieu of
29 submitting the actual statement or certification
30 described under section 6344(b).

1 (iii) The department shall develop procedures and
2 any necessary implementing regulations by which an
3 individual applying to serve as an unpaid volunteer under
4 this section may request a volunteer card indicating that
5 the individual has satisfied all the criteria under
6 subparagraph (i). The following apply:

7 (A) A volunteer card shall be made of plastic
8 and contain, at a minimum, the individual's
9 photograph, personal information of the individual as
10 determined by the department, an expiration date and
11 the words "Not for Identification Purposes."

12 (B) The department shall determine the cost to
13 an individual for a volunteer card, which shall not
14 be less than \$25.

15 (C) The department shall coordinate with the
16 Department of Transportation where possible to
17 facilitate obtaining an individual's photograph for a
18 volunteer card.

19 * * *

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