

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1147 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY FUMO, TARTAGLIONE, KITCHEN, SCHWARTZ, WILLIAMS,
SALVATORE AND HUGHES, OCTOBER 6, 1997

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 6, 1997

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817, No.143), entitled "An
2 act relating to mental health procedures; providing for the
3 treatment and rights of mentally disabled persons, for
4 voluntary and involuntary examination and treatment and for
5 determinations affecting those charged with crime or under
6 sentence," providing for discharges of chronically mentally
7 ill persons.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817, No.143), known
11 as the Mental Health Procedures Act, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 307. Discharges of Chronically Mentally Ill
14 Persons.--(a) Persons who are chronically mentally ill as
15 defined by subsection (b) shall not be discharged until such
16 time as the local authorities have developed or agreed to a
17 discharge plan for the chronically ill person.

18 (b) For purposes of this section, a chronically mentally ill
19 person is one who:

20 (1) was committed pursuant to this article; and

1 (2) has been institutionalized for the previous 24 months or
2 36 out of the previous 60 months.

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