

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1151 Session of
1999

INTRODUCED BY KASUNIC, O'PAKE, COSTA AND BELAN, OCTOBER 20, 1999

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 20, 1999

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 54 (Names) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, further providing for name changes.

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

5 Section 1. Title 54 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
6 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

7 § 701.1. Petition and advertisement of petition filing.

8 (a) Petition.--Any person desiring to change his or her name
9 shall file a petition in the court of common pleas of the county
10 in which he or she shall reside, setting forth such desire and
11 intention and the reason therefor, together with the residence
12 of petitioner, and his or her residence or residences for and
13 during five years prior thereto. Where the petitioner is a
14 married person, the other spouse may join as a party petitioner,
15 in which event, upon compliance with the provisions of this
16 section, said spouse shall also be entitled to the benefits
17 hereof. The court shall, thereupon, enter an order directing
18 that notice be given of the filing of the petition and of the

1 day set for the hearing thereon, which hearing shall be not less
2 than one month or more than three months after the filing of the
3 petition.

4 (b) Notice of filing of petition.--Notice of the filing of a
5 petition to change a person's name shall be:

6 (1) Published in two newspapers of general circulation
7 in said county or county contiguous thereto, one of which
8 publications may be in the official paper for the publication
9 of legal notices in said county.

10 (2) Given to any nonpetitioning parent of a child whose
11 name may be affected by the proceedings.

12 (c) Objection.--At the hearing of the petition, any person
13 having lawful objection to the change of name may appear and be
14 heard. If the court is satisfied after the hearing that there is
15 no lawful objection to the granting of the prayer of the
16 petition, a decree may be entered by the court changing the name
17 as prayed for, if at the hearing the petitioner or petitioners
18 shall present to the court proof of publication of the notice as
19 required by the order, together with official searches of the
20 proper offices of the county wherein petitioner or petitioners
21 reside and of any other county wherein petitioner or petitioners
22 may have resided within five years of the filing of his or her
23 petition for change of name, or a certificate in lieu thereof
24 given by a corporation authorized by law to make such searches,
25 showing that there are no judgments or decrees of record or any
26 other matter of like character against the petitioner or
27 petitioners.

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