
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2445 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY LEE, HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS, FRANKEL, SAPPEY,
SCHLOSSBERG, T. DAVIS, CEPHAS, SANCHEZ, STURLA, ROZZI, RABB,
MCNEILL, MADDEN, KRAJEWSKI, SIMS, GUENST, PARKER, O'MARA,
KINKEAD, McCLINTON AND KINSEY, MARCH 23, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 23, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating
3 to inmate confinement, providing for trauma-informed care and
4 training.

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

7 Section 1. Title 61 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 5908. Trauma-informed care and training.

10 (a) Trauma-informed care requirements.--

11 (1) The department shall provide all incarcerated
12 individuals and detainees quality trauma-informed care as
13 specified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
14 Administration of the United States Department of Health and
15 Human Services.

16 (2) Trauma-informed care for an individual shall begin
17 immediately upon the individual's intake and assessment at a
18 correctional institution.

1 (b) Correctional staff training.--Correctional staff shall
2 have no fewer than 16 hours of professional education related to
3 trauma-informed care, which shall include the following:

4 (1) An overview of trauma-informed care.

5 (2) The basic skills of trauma-informed care.

6 (3) Recognizing vicarious and secondary trauma for
7 caregivers and custodians.

8 (4) Cultural sensitivity.

9 (5) Identifying the signs, symptoms and effects of
10 trauma.

11 (6) Interacting with an individual who has experienced
12 trauma.

13 (7) Mitigating the symptoms and effects of trauma.

14 (8) Referring an individual with trauma to an
15 appropriate health care professional.

16 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
17 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
18 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 "Correctional staff." An individual who works with
20 incarcerated individuals on a regular basis. The term includes,
21 but is not limited to, any of the following:

22 (1) Medical staff.

23 (2) A correctional officer.

24 (3) A mentor.

25 (4) An educational instructor.

26 "Trauma." Any disturbing experience that results in
27 significant fear, helplessness, dissociation, confusion or other
28 disruptive feelings intense enough to have a long-lasting
29 negative effect on an individual's attitudes, behavior and other
30 aspects of functioning.

1 "Trauma-informed care." An organizational structure and
2 treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing and
3 responding to the effects of all types of trauma.

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