

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in judicial boards and
3 commissions, authorizing the Pennsylvania Board of Law
4 Examiners to obtain criminal history record checks.

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

7 Section 1. Chapter 21 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

9 SUBCHAPTER G

10 PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

11 Sec.

12 2161. Criminal history record checks.

13 § 2161. Criminal history record checks.

14 (a) Authorization.--The Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners
15 may require that persons applying for admission to the bar and
16 the practice of law in this Commonwealth submit:

17 (1) A Federal criminal history record check through the
18 Federal Bureau of Investigation.

1 (2) A State criminal history record check through the
2 Pennsylvania State Police.

3 (b) Fingerprints required.--If an applicant as required
4 under subsection (a) submits fingerprints to the Pennsylvania
5 State Police for the purpose of obtaining criminal history
6 record checks, the Pennsylvania State Police, or its authorized
7 agent, shall submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of
8 Investigation for the purpose of verifying the identity of the
9 applicant and obtaining a current record of any criminal arrests
10 and convictions.

11 (c) Use of information.--Any information relating to an
12 applicant and obtained under this section by the Pennsylvania
13 Board of Law Examiners may be interpreted and used by the
14 Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners to determine the applicant's
15 character, fitness and suitability for admission to the bar and
16 the practice of law in this Commonwealth.

17 (d) Inapplicability.--The provisions of 18 Pa.C.S. § 9121(b)
18 (2) (relating to general regulations) shall not apply if a
19 request for a criminal history record check is submitted
20 pursuant to this section.

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