

Thomas King, Solicitor
Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association

Testimony – Pennsylvania House Urban Affairs Committee
Public Hearing on House Bill 1896

Chairwoman Brown, Chairman Sturla, and members of the committee. I'm Tom King, and I have had the pleasure of representing the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association as their solicitor for many years.

I'm here today to raise serious concerns with House Bill 1896 as it's currently drafted.

Sheriffs across the Commonwealth have certain core missions. One of these core missions is the role they play in conducting sheriffs' sales. Here are some immediate points and questions I have on the legislation –

- A sheriff is a constitutional officer in Pennsylvania.
- A sheriff is covered by the following provisions in Pennsylvania –
 - PA Ethics Act
 - PA Right to Know Law
 - Insurance Protection
 - Will defend sheriff sale decisions if challenged
 - Subject to the Rules of Civil Procedure
- Will the "Private Selling Officers" be "Special Deputies"? If not, how are the earlier listed provided protections through a Sheriffs' Office going to be addressed with a private individual?
- What is the purpose of removing the sheriffs' office from the sale of private property?

I also would like to make it abundantly clear that the sheriff sales that have recently occurred utilizing an online platform have been conducted in a legal and proper manner.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak to the concerns we see with House Bill 1896 as it's currently drafted.

We are now prepared to answer any questions you have for our panel.