

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 699

Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS, ECKENSBERGER, W. D. HUTCHINSON, FRYER,
ZORD, NOYE, POLITE, W. W. WILT, BRANDT, GRING, LEHR, MORRIS,
DAVIS, CIMINI, DOYLE, YAHNER, PITTS, WEIDNER, GEESEY AND
ARTHURS, MARCH 11, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, MARCH 11, 1975

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 21, 1953 (P.L.1273, No.361), entitled
2 "An act to regulate the business of private detectives,
3 investigators and watch, guard, or patrol agencies, and the
4 licensing thereof in each county; providing penalties,"
5 permitting certain police officers to apply for licenses.

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

8 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 4, act of August 21,
9 1953 (P.L.1273, No.361), known as "The Private Detective Act of
10 1953," amended April 30, 1957 (P.L.98, No.40), is amended to
11 read:

12 Section 4. Application for Licenses.--* * *

13 (a) If the applicant is a person, the application shall be
14 signed and verified by such person, and if the applicant is a
15 partnership or association, the application shall be signed and
16 verified by each individual composing or intending to compose
17 such partnership or association. The application shall state the
18 full name, age, residence, present and previous occupations, of

1 each person or individual so signing the same, that he is a
2 citizen of the United States, and shall also specify the name of
3 the city, borough, township, or incorporated town, stating the
4 street and number if the premises have a street and number, and
5 otherwise such apt description as will reasonably indicate the
6 location thereof, where is to be located the principal place of
7 business, and the bureau, agency, sub-agency, office or branch
8 office for which the license is desired, and such further facts
9 as may be required by the court of [quarter sessions] common
10 pleas, to show the good character, competency and integrity of
11 each person or individual so signing such application. Each
12 person or individual signing such application shall, together
13 with such application, submit to the court of [quarter sessions]
14 common pleas his photograph, in duplicate, in passport size, and
15 also fingerprints of his two hands, recorded in such manner as
16 may be specified by the court of [quarter sessions] common
17 pleas. Before approving such application, it shall be the duty
18 of the court of [quarter sessions] common pleas to compare such
19 fingerprints with fingerprints of criminals now or hereafter
20 filed in the records of the Pennsylvania State Police. Every
21 such applicant shall establish, to the satisfaction of the court
22 of [quarter sessions] common pleas and by at least two duly
23 acknowledged certificates, that such applicant, if he be a
24 person, or, in the case of a partnership, association, or
25 corporation, at least one member of such partnership,
26 association, or corporation, has been regularly employed as a
27 detective, or shall have been a member of the United States
28 government investigative service, a sheriff, a member of the
29 Pennsylvania State Police, or a member of a [city] police
30 department of any municipality having a rank or grade higher

1 than that of patrolman, for a period of not less than three
2 years. Such application shall be approved as to each person or
3 individual so signing the same by not less than five reputable
4 citizens of the community in which such applicant resides or
5 transacts business, or in which it is proposed to own, conduct,
6 manage or maintain the bureau, agency, sub-agency, office or
7 branch office for which the license is desired, each of whom
8 shall certify that he has personally known the said person or
9 individual for a period of at least five years prior to the
10 filing of such application, that he has read such application
11 and believes each of the statements made therein to be true,
12 that such person is honest, of good character, and competent,
13 and not related or connected to the person so certifying by
14 blood or marriage. The certificate of approval shall be signed
15 by such reputable citizens and duly verified and acknowledged by
16 them before an officer authorized to take oaths and
17 acknowledgment of deeds.

18 * * *

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.