

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 2380** Session of  
1976

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, O'CONNELL, IRVIS, BUTERA, GIAMMARCO, ROSS, SHELTON, McINTYRE, DiDONATO, RIEGER, MYERS, RAPPAPORT, A. P. KELLY, GARZIA, OLIVER, LEDERER, JOHNSON, REED, SCHWEDER, O'DONNELL, MANDERINO, ZWIKL, PERRI, USTYNOSKI, PRATT, GREEN, BEREN, ZEARFOSS, GLEASON, HILL, BRANDT, VROON, M. E. MILLER JR., KISTLER, HASKELL, GLEESON, DiCARLO, BENNETT, O'BRIEN, O'KEEFE, GILLESPIE, M. P. MULLEN, DREIBELBIS, BRADLEY, ZELLER, ECKENSBERGER, PERRY, SHANE, BELLOMINI, RHODES, MUSTO, KATZ, MILLIRON AND McCALL, MAY 13, 1976

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 17, 1976

AN ACT

1 Authorizing members of the General Assembly to employ an  
2 assistant to work in the home district; creating a Home  
3 District Assistant Advisory Committee establishing powers and  
4 duties for assistants of the committees; and making an  
5 appropriation.

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

8 Section 1. Legislative Purpose.--This act shall be known as  
9 the "Home District Assistant Act of 1976." Its purpose shall be  
10 to increase the accessibility of each Pennsylvania voter to his  
11 or her State Representative and State Senator.

12 Section 2. Home District Assistant.--Each State  
13 Representative and each State Senator may hire one person as a  
14 home district assistant at a salary of \$9,000 a year. The home  
15 district assistant shall not be related to any member of the

1 State Legislature by blood or marriage. Upon his or her  
2 appointment, he or she shall file a resume of prior experience  
3 with the Chief Clerk's Office. He or she shall be required to  
4 work an average of at least 40 hours a week and shall file time  
5 sheets with the Chief Clerk's Office once a month.

6 Section 3. Tasks of the Home District Assistant.--The  
7 purpose of the home district assistant position shall be to  
8 better serve the people of that legislator's district. Each  
9 legislator who elects to have a home district assistant shall be  
10 responsible for his or her supervision. Each legislator may  
11 assign his or her home district assistant the task of:

12 (1) Scheduling meetings with individual constituents,  
13 with farm organizations, business organizations, labor  
14 organizations, religious congregations, citizens  
15 organizations, and news media.

16 (2) Supervising the composition and distributions of all  
17 reports and questionnaires that the legislator may issue.

18 (3) Researching proper language for bills and the  
19 effects of proposed bills through reading, interviewing, and  
20 eliciting opinions.

21 (4) Listening to constituents complaints about  
22 governmental performance and seeking appropriate remedies.

23 (5) Advising a legislator for whom he or she works about  
24 constituents feelings and governmental policies.

25 (6) Supervising volunteers who wish to help out.

26 (7) Serving as a liaison with county, borough, and  
27 township governments, and school districts and the  
28 legislator.

29 (8) Handling appropriate clerical and record keeping  
30 duties.

1       Section 4. Appointment of Committee; Duties.--(a) The  
2 Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate  
3 shall jointly appoint 20 registered voters in Pennsylvania, no  
4 more than ten of which shall be members of the same political  
5 party to serve, without compensation, as members of the Home  
6 Districts Assistant Advisory Committee. The 20 members shall  
7 elect one other member by majority vote.

8       (b) The Home District Assistant Advisory Committee shall  
9 have the following duties:

10           (1) To recommend qualified people to serve as home  
11 district assistants to any legislator who requests their help  
12 in finding a qualified person.

13           (2) To make recommendations to the General Assembly, the  
14 Governor, and the public as to how home district assistants  
15 can most effectively fulfill their duties to meet public  
16 needs.

17           (3) To make recommendations to the General Assembly, the  
18 Governor, and the public as to the most efficient and  
19 economical method the home district assistant may employ to  
20 save taxpayers dollars.

21           (4) To evaluate, at least once a Legislation session,  
22 the overall performance of the home district assistants.

23       Section 5. Membership of Committee.--The Home District  
24 Assistant Advisory Committee shall consist of:

25           (1) At least one officer of a Statewide organization  
26 established to promote the interests of business in  
27 Pennsylvania.

28           (2) At least one officer of a Statewide organization  
29 established to promote the interests of labor in  
30 Pennsylvania.

1           (3) At least one assistant of a United States Senator  
2 from Pennsylvania who works in the Senator's home office.

3           (4) At least one assistant of a United States  
4 Congressman from Pennsylvania who works in the Congressman's  
5 home office.

6           (5) At least one officer of the Statewide organization  
7 established to promote the interests of Pennsylvania farmers.

8           (6) At least one officer of a Statewide organization  
9 established to promote the interests of Pennsylvania bankers.

10          (7) At least one officer of a Statewide organization  
11 established to promote the interests of Pennsylvania  
12 colleges.

13          (8) At least one professor of political science at a  
14 Pennsylvania college or university who has published at least  
15 one book on state legislators in the United States or at  
16 least one book on the Pennsylvania legislators.

17          (9) At least one former Governor of Pennsylvania or one  
18 former Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania.

19          (10) At least one officer of a Statewide women's  
20 organization.

21          (11) At least one officer of a Statewide organization  
22 interested in improving the character and habits of  
23 Pennsylvania citizens.

24          (12) At least one officer of a Statewide religious  
25 organization.

26          (13) At least one officer of a Statewide organization of  
27 Pennsylvania news media.

28          (14) At least one member of the State House.

29          (15) At least one member of the State Senate.

30          (16) At least one officer of a Statewide organization

1 seeking to reduce governmental expenditures.

2 (17) At least one officer of a Statewide organization  
3 established to advance the interests of lawyers.

4 (18) At least one officer of a Statewide organization  
5 established to advance the interests of health care.

6 (19) At least one officer of a Statewide organization  
7 established to advance the interests of State employees.

8 Section 6. Time of Appointment; Terms.--(a) Members of the  
9 Home District Assistant Advisory Committee shall be appointed  
10 within 60 days of the passage of this act. They shall serve for  
11 three years, or as long as they hold required qualifications for  
12 their position on the Home District Assistant Advisory  
13 Committee, whichever is shorter.

14 (b) The Home District Assistant Advisory Committee shall  
15 meet at least six times a year with additional meetings to be  
16 called by the chairman or by a filed request of one-third of the  
17 members.

18 Section 7. Appropriation.--The sum of \$2,277,000 is hereby  
19 specifically appropriated to the General Assembly to carry out  
20 the purposes of this act.