
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1579 Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY RAPPAPORT AND SPENCER, OCTOBER 12, 1983

SENATOR SNYDER, JUDICIARY, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,
SEPTEMBER 19, 1984

AN ACT

1 ~~Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the~~ <—
2 ~~Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for dividing~~
3 ~~the thirty ninth judicial district into two separate~~
4 ~~districts; providing for additional judges in the fifth,~~
5 ~~sixth, seventh, ninth, tenth, fifteenth, seventeenth,~~
6 ~~nineteenth, twenty third, twenty fourth, thirty first,~~
7 ~~thirty second, thirty ninth, forty third, forty sixth, fifty~~
8 ~~first and fifty third judicial districts; and providing for~~
9 ~~additional compensation for assignment of district justices.~~
10 AMENDING TITLE 42 (JUDICIARY AND JUDICIAL PROCEDURE) OF THE <—
11 PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES, PROVIDING FOR
12 INTERPRETERS FOR DEAF PERSONS IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 ~~Section 1. Sections 901 and 911 of Title 42 of the~~ <—
16 ~~Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:~~
17 ~~§ 901. Judicial districts.~~

18 ~~(a) General rule. The Commonwealth is divided into [60] 61~~
19 ~~judicial districts, numbered and composed as follows:~~

20 ~~First. City and County of Philadelphia.~~
21 ~~Second. County of Lancaster.~~

1 ~~Third.—County of Northampton.~~
2 ~~Fourth.—County of Tioga.~~
3 ~~Fifth.—County of Allegheny.~~
4 ~~Sixth.—County of Erie.~~
5 ~~Seventh.—County of Bucks.~~
6 ~~Eighth.—County of Northumberland.~~
7 ~~Ninth.—County of Cumberland.~~
8 ~~Tenth.—County of Westmoreland.~~
9 ~~Eleventh.—County of Luzerne.~~
10 ~~Twelfth.—County of Dauphin.~~
11 ~~Thirteenth.—County of Greene.~~
12 ~~Fourteenth.—County of Fayette.~~
13 ~~Fifteenth.—County of Chester.~~
14 ~~Sixteenth.—County of Somerset.~~
15 ~~Seventeenth.—Counties of Snyder and Union.~~
16 ~~Eighteenth.—County of Clarion.~~
17 ~~Nineteenth.—County of York.~~
18 ~~Twentieth.—County of Huntingdon.~~
19 ~~Twenty first.—County of Schuylkill.~~
20 ~~Twenty second.—County of Wayne.~~
21 ~~Twenty third.—County of Berks.~~
22 ~~Twenty fourth.—County of Blair.~~
23 ~~Twenty fifth.—County of Clinton.~~
24 ~~Twenty sixth.—Counties of Columbia and Montour.~~
25 ~~Twenty seventh.—County of Washington.~~
26 ~~Twenty eighth.—County of Venango.~~
27 ~~Twenty ninth.—County of Lycoming.~~
28 ~~Thirtieth.—County of Crawford.~~
29 ~~Thirty first.—County of Lehigh.~~
30 ~~Thirty second.—County of Delaware.~~

~~Thirty third. County of Armstrong.~~
~~Thirty fourth. County of Susquehanna.~~
~~Thirty fifth. County of Mercer.~~
~~Thirty sixth. County of Beaver.~~
~~Thirty seventh. Counties of Forest and Warren.~~
~~Thirty eighth. County of Montgomery.~~
~~Thirty ninth. [Counties] County of Franklin [and Fulton].~~
~~Fortieth. County of Indiana.~~
~~Forty first. Counties of Juniata and Perry.~~
~~Forty second. County of Bradford.~~
~~Forty third. County of Monroe.~~
~~Forty fourth. Counties of Sullivan and Wyoming.~~
~~Forty fifth. County of Lackawanna.~~
~~Forty sixth. County of Clearfield.~~
~~Forty seventh. County of Cambria.~~
~~Forty eighth. County of McKean.~~
~~Forty ninth. County of Centre.~~
~~Fiftieth. County of Butler.~~
~~Fifty first. County of Adams.~~
~~Fifty second. County of Lebanon.~~
~~Fifty third. County of Lawrence.~~
~~Fifty fourth. County of Jefferson.~~
~~Fifty fifth. County of Potter.~~
~~Fifty sixth. County of Carbon.~~
~~Fifty seventh. County of Bedford.~~
~~Fifty eighth. County of Mifflin.~~
~~Fifty ninth. Counties of Cameron and Elk.~~
~~Sixtieth. County of Pike.~~
~~Sixty first. County of Fulton.~~

~~(b) Change in number or boundaries. Except as otherwise~~

~~provided therein, any statute amending subsection (a) so as to change the number or boundaries of the judicial districts of this Commonwealth shall take effect 30 days after the entry of an order of the Supreme Court evidencing the advice and consent of the court to the amendment pursuant to section 11 of Article V of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.~~

~~§ 911. Courts of common pleas.~~

~~(a) General rule. There shall be one court of common pleas for each judicial district of this Commonwealth consisting of the following number of judges:~~

Judicial District	Number of Judges
First	81
Second	6
Third	5
Fourth	1
Fifth	{39} 42
Sixth	{6} 8
Seventh	{10} 11
Eighth	2
Ninth	{3} 4
Tenth	{8} 9
Eleventh	7
Twelfth	6
Thirteenth	1
Fourteenth	4
Fifteenth	{7} 9
Sixteenth	2
Seventeenth	{1} 2
Eighteenth	1

1	Nineteenth	—[6]— <u>7</u>
2	Twentieth	—1
3	Twenty first	—5
4	Twenty second	—1
5	Twenty third	—[6]— <u>7</u>
6	Twenty fourth	—[3]— <u>4</u>
7	Twenty fifth	—1
8	Twenty sixth	—1
9	Twenty seventh	—5
10	Twenty eighth	—1
11	Twenty ninth	—3
12	Thirtieth	—2
13	Thirty first	—[6]— <u>7</u>
14	Thirty second	—[14]— <u>15</u>
15	Thirty third	—1
16	Thirty fourth	—1
17	Thirty fifth	—3
18	Thirty sixth	—5
19	Thirty seventh	—1
20	Thirty eighth	—15
21	Thirty ninth	—[2]— <u>3</u>
22	Fortieth	—2
23	Forty first	—1
24	Forty second	—1
25	Forty third	—[2]— <u>3</u>
26	Forty fourth	—1
27	Forty fifth	—5
28	Forty sixth	—[1]— <u>2</u>
29	Forty seventh	—4
30	Forty eighth	—1

1	Forty ninth	—2
2	Fiftieth	—3
3	Fifty first	—[1] 2
4	Fifty second	—3
5	Fifty third	—[2] 3
6	Fifty fourth	—1
7	Fifty fifth	—1
8	Fifty sixth	—1
9	Fifty seventh	—1
10	Fifty eighth	—1
11	Fifty ninth	—1
12	Sixtieth	—1
13	<u>Sixty first</u>	—1

14 ~~(b) Single county districts. In single county judicial~~
15 ~~districts the court of common pleas of the district shall be~~
16 ~~known as the "Court of Common Pleas of (the respective) County."~~

17 ~~(c) Multicounty districts. In multicounty judicial~~
18 ~~districts the court of common pleas of the district shall be~~
19 ~~known as the "Court of Common Pleas of the (respective) Judicial~~
20 ~~District." There shall be a separate branch of the court in each~~
21 ~~county comprising the judicial district.~~

22 ~~Section 2. Section 4122 of Title 42 is amended to read:~~

23 ~~§ 4122. Assignment of district justices.~~

24 ~~(a) General rule. Subject to general rules any district~~
25 ~~justice may be temporarily assigned to any other magisterial~~
26 ~~district or the Pittsburgh Magistrates Court or the Traffic~~
27 ~~Court of Philadelphia, and may there hear and determine any~~
28 ~~matter with like effect as if duly commissioned to sit in such~~
29 ~~other district or in such court.~~

30 ~~(b) Senior district justices. A senior district justice who~~

~~shall not have been defeated for reelection or been suspended or removed from office may, with his consent, be assigned on temporary magisterial service pursuant to subsection (a). A senior district justice shall be paid a per diem salary at the same annual rate as is applicable in the district where he is temporarily assigned and shall receive expenses at the same per diem rate as other justices temporarily assigned.~~

~~(c) Additional compensation. A district justice, assigned by the court of common pleas to perform additional part time duties in a district other than the one in which he is elected, shall be entitled to receive additional compensation of \$20 per day for each day he performs assigned duties.~~

~~Section 3. The provisions of this act, creating a new judicial district, shall take effect 30 days after the advice and consent of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is given by order of the court pursuant to section 11 of Article V of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.~~

~~Section 4. The vacancies created by the new judgeships added by section 1 of this act shall be filled by election.~~

~~Section 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 1985.~~

SECTION 1. TITLE 42 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED
STATUTES IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

§ 7103. INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF.

(A) GENERAL RULE.--IN ANY CIVIL PROCEEDING IN WHICH A PARTY IS DEAF THE COURT MAY APPOINT AN INTERPRETER TO ASSIST THE PARTY THROUGHOUT THE PROCEEDING. DISPOSITION OF COSTS SHALL BE IN DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

(B) OATH.--THE INTERPRETER SHALL SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT HE WILL MAKE A TRUE INTERPRETATION TO THE DEAF PERSON AND THAT HE WILL REPEAT THE STATEMENTS OF THE DEAF PERSON TO THE BEST OF HIS

1 ABILITY.

2 (C) DEFINITIONS.--AS USED IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING
3 WORDS AND PHRASES SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS
4 SUBSECTION:

5 "DEAF." PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR WHOSE HEARING IS SO IMPAIRED
6 THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND OR COMMUNICATE THE SPOKEN
7 ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

8 "INTERPRETER." A PERSON QUALIFIED AND TRAINED TO TRANSLATE
9 FOR OR COMMUNICATE WITH DEAF PERSONS. ANY PERSON CERTIFIED BY
10 THE NATIONAL OR LOCAL REGISTRY OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF OR
11 SIMILAR REGISTRY SHALL BE CONSIDERED QUALIFIED FOR THE PURPOSES
12 OF THIS SECTION.

13 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.