

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2696 Session of
1994

INTRODUCED BY LYNCH, PITTS, TRELLO, FARGO, STURLA, BAKER,
CAWLEY, E. Z. TAYLOR, PETTIT, LEDERER, MILLER, SERAFINI,
TOMLINSON, L. I. COHEN, GRUITZA AND KENNEY, APRIL 13, 1994

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND YOUTH, APRIL 13, 1994

AN ACT

1 Creating the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services
2 to Elderly Persons; and providing for powers and duties of
3 the committee.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Coordination
8 of Police Services to Elderly Persons Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Committee." The Committee for the Coordination of Police
14 Services to Elderly Persons established under section 3.

15 "Department." The Department of Aging of the Commonwealth.

16 "Triad program." The triad cooperative model developed by
17 the American Association of Retired Persons, the National
18 Sheriffs' Association and the International Association of

1 Chiefs of Police which calls for the participation of the
2 sheriff, at least one police chief and a representative of at
3 least one senior citizens' organization within a county and may
4 include participation by general service coalitions of law
5 enforcement, victim service and senior citizen advocate
6 organizations. If there is not both a sheriff and a police chief
7 in a county or if the sheriff or a police chief does not
8 participate, a triad may include in the place of the sheriff or
9 police chief another key law enforcement official in the county
10 such as a district attorney.

11 Section 3. Establishment of committee.

12 There is hereby established within the Department of Aging
13 the Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to Elderly
14 Persons.

15 Section 4. Membership and operation of committee.

16 (a) Members.--The Committee for the Coordination of Police
17 Services to Elderly Persons shall consist of ten members, as
18 follows:

19 (1) The Secretary of Aging, who shall serve as presiding
20 officer of the committee.

21 (2) The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police.

22 (3) The Attorney General.

23 (4) The presiding officer of the Crime Victim's
24 Compensation Board.

25 (5) Two county sheriffs, to be appointed by the
26 Governor.

27 (6) Two municipal police chiefs, to be appointed by the
28 Governor.

29 (7) Two citizens at large both of whom shall be 65 years
30 of age or older, to be appointed by the Governor.

1 (b) Method of appointment.--Appointments by the Governor
2 shall be made from nominations submitted by relevant
3 organizations.

4 (c) Term.--Members of the committee appointed by the
5 Governor shall serve for a term of three years. A member may be
6 reappointed for additional terms.

7 (d) Cessation of participation.--A member of the committee
8 shall, immediately upon removal or retirement from the position
9 by virtue of which the member was eligible for appointment,
10 cease to be a member of the committee.

11 (e) Vacancies.--A member appointed to fill a vacancy created
12 other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the
13 unexpired term of the member whom he is to succeed in the same
14 manner as the original appointment.

15 (f) Reimbursement.--Members of the committee shall serve
16 without compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary and
17 actual expenses incurred in attending meetings of the committee
18 and in the performance of their duties under this act.

19 (g) Removal.--Members of the committee may be removed by the
20 Governor for cause after written notice from the Governor.

21 (h) Meetings.--The committee shall meet as often as its
22 members deem necessary, but not less than twice per year.

23 Section 5. Powers and duties of committee.

24 The Committee for the Coordination of Police Services to
25 Elderly Persons shall advise the Department of Aging, the
26 Pennsylvania State Police, county sheriffs and other local law
27 enforcement agencies, senior advocates and other relevant
28 parties chosen in consultation with the department in the study
29 and evaluation of triad programs as an effective response to the
30 problems of crime against elderly persons. The committee may

1 also consult with experts, service providers and representative
2 organizations engaged in the protection of the elderly and may
3 recommend the development of triad programs in this Commonwealth
4 to assist the elderly to avoid criminal victimization through
5 coordinated efforts of State and local law enforcement agencies
6 and organizations which provide services for the elderly. The
7 committee may also recommend policies and programs to assist law
8 enforcement agencies in implementing triad programs, including
9 training and prevention standards and technical assistance. The
10 powers and duties of the committee shall include the following:

11 (1) Establishment of a Statewide and central
12 clearinghouse for information and education materials.

13 (2) Development of innovative community police programs
14 for the elderly.

15 (3) Providing assistance to the Municipal Police
16 Officers' Education and Training Commission in the
17 development and delivery of training to law enforcement
18 professionals involved in the triad programs, including, but
19 not limited to, the subjects of:

20 (i) crimes against the elderly and the protection of
21 elderly persons;

22 (ii) police sensitivity to the needs of elderly
23 persons as victims and witnesses; and

24 (iii) social and human services.

25 (4) Providing assistance to State and local law
26 enforcement officials and to not-for-profit corporations and
27 organizations with respect to effective policies for and
28 responses to crimes against elderly persons.

29 (5) Promoting and facilitating cooperation among State
30 agencies and local units of government.

1 (6) Effective advocacy of services to protect elderly
2 persons and elderly victims of crime.

3 (7) Evaluating the relationship between crimes against
4 elderly persons and other problems confronting elderly
5 persons, and making recommendations for effective policy
6 response.

7 (8) Collection of statistical data and research.

8 (9) Promulgation of rules and regulations as may be
9 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

10 Section 6. Effective date.

11 This act shall take effect in 60 days.