

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1860 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY PALLONE, PETRARCA, TANGRETTI, CASORIO, CREIGHTON,
RUFFING, SHANER, SOLOBAY AND YOUNGBLOOD, JULY 15, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JULY 15, 2003

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled,
2 as amended, "An act relating to counties of the first, third,
3 fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending,
4 revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating
5 thereto; relating to imposition of excise taxes by counties,
6 including authorizing imposition of an excise tax on the
7 rental of motor vehicles by counties of the first class; and
8 providing for regional renaissance initiatives," further
9 providing for police duties.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Sections 2511 and 2512 of the act of August 9,
13 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, are amended to
14 read:

15 Section 2511. Employees; Police.--(a) For the purpose of
16 performing all necessary duties relating to the establishing,
17 making, enlarging, extending and maintaining public parks,
18 buildings and other county-owned properties and for enforcing
19 the rules and regulations ordained or resolved by the county
20 commissioners or by any body or board of control where no
21 penalty or fine is involved, the county commissioners of the

1 county are hereby authorized to employ or appoint and equip
2 proper persons to do all necessary and proper work connected
3 therewith, including police or guard duty.

4 (b) The board of commissioners of any county of the third
5 class may, by ordinance, create or disband a county park police
6 force within the county. When such a county park police force is
7 created in accordance herewith, the county commissioners shall
8 have power to employ the number of officers as may be fixed by
9 the salary board of the county. The compensation of the county
10 park police officers shall be paid by the county.

11 Section 2512. Duty of Police.--(a) It shall be the duty of
12 the police, county park police or guards appointed to duty in
13 any recreation places, buildings and other county-owned
14 properties, without warrant, forthwith to arrest any offender
15 against the rules and regulations, ordained or resolved by the
16 county commissioners, that they may detect in the commission of
17 such offense, and to take the person so arrested forthwith
18 before a magistrate, alderman or justice of the peace having
19 competent jurisdiction.

20 (b) In the ordinance creating a county park police force,
21 the county commissioners shall designate a primary
22 jurisdictional area upon which the county park police officers
23 shall have jurisdiction, and which shall include only property
24 owned, leased or controlled by the county, by a county municipal
25 authority, county redevelopment authority, county industrial
26 development authority or agency, or county airport authority, or
27 by a community college of which the county is a local sponsor,
28 whether such property is within or outside the territorial
29 limits of the county. A county road, street or highway shall not
30 be designated or considered as a primary jurisdictional area

unless it is located within the boundaries of a geographical
area otherwise designated by ordinance as a primary
jurisdictional area pursuant to this section.

(c) County park police shall have the power and their duty
shall be:

(1) to enforce good order and protect the grounds and
buildings within a primary jurisdictional area;

(2) to exclude all disorderly persons from the grounds and
buildings within a primary jurisdictional area;

(3) to exercise the same powers as are now or may hereafter
be exercised under authority of law or ordinance by the police
of the municipalities wherein the primary jurisdictional area is
located, including, but not limited to, those powers conferred
pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 89 Subch. D (relating to municipal
police jurisdiction);

(4) to prevent crime, investigate criminal acts, apprehend,
arrest and charge criminal offenders and issue summary citations
for acts committed on the grounds and in the buildings of the
primary jurisdictional area and carry the offender before the
proper authority and prefer charges against the offender under
the laws of this Commonwealth. Except when acting pursuant to 42
Pa.C.S. Ch. 89 Subch. D, county park police shall exercise these
powers and perform these duties only on the grounds of the
primary jurisdictional area;

(5) to order off the grounds and out of the buildings within
the primary jurisdictional area all vagrants, loafers,
trespassers and persons under the influence of liquor and, if
necessary, remove them by force and, in case of resistance,
carry such offenders before the proper authority; and

(6) to arrest any person who damages, mutilates or destroys

1 the trees, plants, shrubbery, turf, grass plots, benches,
2 buildings, and structures or commits any other offense on the
3 grounds and in the buildings within the primary jurisdictional
4 area, and carry the offender before the proper authority and
5 prefer charges against the offender under the laws of this
6 Commonwealth.

7 (d) The county commissioners shall designate, from the
8 county park police officers, the chief and such other ranks or
9 classifications of officers as desired by the county
10 commissioners.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.