

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 119 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY MELLOW, WAGNER, MUSTO, STOUT, KASUNIC, COSTA,
LAVALLE, LOGAN, TARTAGLIONE, KITCHEN AND SCHWARTZ,
FEBRUARY 3, 2003

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 3, 2003

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for
3 oaths for judicial officers.

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

6 Section 1. Section 3151 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 3151. Oath of office.

9 Each judicial officer shall, before entering on the duties of
10 his office, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation
11 before a person authorized to administer oaths:

12 ["I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support,
13 obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the
14 Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge
15 the duties of my office with fidelity.["]

16 Any person refusing to take the oath or affirmation shall
17 forfeit his office. [A] Except as set forth in section 3116
18 (relating to effect of failure to obtain certificate), an

1 appointed judicial officer shall be sworn [upon his appointment
2 or] within 30 days of the Governor's issuance of a commission
3 unless the appointee is unable to be sworn because of a medical
4 emergency, and thereafter need not be sworn in any matter
5 referred to him. An elected judicial officer shall be sworn upon
6 election, and after each retention election, and thereafter need
7 not be sworn in any matter referred to him.

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