

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1131 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY DALLY, BARRAR, BEYER, BISHOP, BRENNAN, CUTLER,
EVERETT, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, KILLION, MELIO, MILLER,
MILNE, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, MYERS, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL,
PHILLIPS, PYLE, QUINN, REICHLEY, SIPTROTH, TRUE, VULAKOVICH,
WALKO, WATSON, WHEATLEY, SWANGER AND MARSICO, MARCH 27, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 27, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in organization and
3 jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, authorizing the
4 establishment of problem solving courts.

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

7 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes
8 is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 916. Problem solving courts.

10 (a) Establishment.--The court of common pleas of a judicial
11 district and the Municipal Court of Philadelphia may establish
12 one or more problem solving courts which have specialized
13 jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, drug courts, mental
14 health courts and driving under the influence courts, whereby
15 defendants are admitted to a court-supervised individualized
16 treatment program. The court may adopt local rules for the
17 administration of problem solving courts and their related

1 treatment services. The local rules may not be inconsistent with
2 this section or any rules established by the Supreme Court.

3 (b) Statewide problem solving courts coordinator.--The
4 Supreme Court may appoint a Statewide problem solving courts
5 coordinator. The coordinator may:

6 (1) Encourage and assist in the establishment of problem
7 solving courts in each judicial district.

8 (2) Identify sources of funding for problem solving
9 courts and their related treatment services, including the
10 availability of grants.

11 (3) Provide coordination and technical assistance for
12 grant applications.

13 (4) Develop model guidelines for the administration of
14 problem solving courts and their related treatment services.

15 (5) Establish procedures for monitoring problem solving
16 courts and their related treatment services and for
17 evaluating the effectiveness of problem solving courts and
18 their related treatment services.

19 (c) Advisory committee.--The Supreme Court may establish an
20 interdisciplinary and interbranch advisory committee to advise
21 and assist the Statewide problem solving courts coordinator in
22 monitoring and administrating problem solving courts Statewide.

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