

---

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 1281 Session of  
2009

---

INTRODUCED BY GIBBONS, BELFANTI, BROWN, DALEY, FAIRCHILD,  
GERGELY, JOSEPHS, KULA, LONGIETTI, MANN, M. O'BRIEN,  
PASHINSKI, PAYTON, SIPTROTH AND VULAKOVICH, APRIL 20, 2009

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 20, 2009

---

AN ACT

1 Providing for notice and a public hearing relating to privately  
2 operated community corrections centers supervised by the  
3 Department of Corrections.

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 Privately  
8 Operated Community Corrections Center Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative intent.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares that the purpose of  
11 this act is to require notice and a hearing relating to the  
12 establishment of any proposed community corrections center for  
13 inmates with prerelease status or who are on parole. The hearing  
14 will provide concerned parties the opportunity to receive  
15 information regarding the location of the proposed center and  
16 the impact on the community and will provide individuals with  
17 the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns relative  
18 to the project.

1 Section 3. Definitions.

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

5 "Community corrections center." A residential program that  
6 is supervised by the Department of Corrections and operated by a  
7 private vendor pursuant to a contract entered into between the  
8 Department of Corrections and the private vendor for inmates  
9 with prerelease status or who are on parole.

10 "Department." The Department of Corrections of the  
11 Commonwealth.

12 Section 4. Public hearing required.

13 The department shall conduct a public hearing within the  
14 county of the proposed site of the community corrections center  
15 not less than six months prior to the date on which the center  
16 is scheduled to commence operations and prior to the department  
17 signing a contract with a private provider for community  
18 corrections services. At the public hearing the department shall  
19 explain the operations of the community corrections center and  
20 shall permit public comments relating to the operation of the  
21 center.

22 Section 5. Public notice.

23 (a) Public notice.--The department shall provide at a  
24 minimum two notices in a newspaper of general circulation of its  
25 intent to hold a public hearing. Each notice shall provide  
26 information regarding topic, location and time of the public  
27 hearing and a contact number for interested persons to call for  
28 additional information. The department shall obtain and keep on  
29 file notarized statements attesting to the publishing of the  
30 notices.

1       (b) Notice to county and municipality.--The department shall  
2 send a copy of the public notice to the administrative offices  
3 of all municipalities and the county wherein the proposed  
4 community corrections center is to be located.

5       (c) Time of notice.--The department shall provide public  
6 notice no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from  
7 the date of the scheduled public hearing.

8 Section 6. Effective date.

9       This act shall take effect in 60 days.