

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1735 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY GODSHALL, BEYER, BOBACK, BRENNAN, CLYMER, MOUL, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, ROAE, SCHRODER, SWANGER AND J. TAYLOR, JUNE 17, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 17, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111),  
2 entitled "An act providing for victims' rights; imposing  
3 penalties; establishing remedies; establishing the Office of  
4 Victim Advocate, the Bureau of Victims' Services, the  
5 Victims' Services Advisory Committee, the State Offender  
6 Supervision Fund and other funds; and making repeals,"further  
7 providing for powers and duties of victim advocate.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 302 of the act of November 24, 1998  
11 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act, amended  
12 October 2, 2002 (P.L.839, No.121), is amended to read:

13 Section 302. Powers and duties of victim advocate.

14 The victim advocate has the following powers and duties:

15 (1) To represent the interests of individual crime  
16 victims before the board, department or hearing examiner.

17 (2) To supervise the victim notification duties  
18 presently conducted by the board.

19 (3) To assist in and coordinate the preparation of  
20 testimony by the crime victims as set forth in sections

1 501(c) and 502 or the submission of oral, written or  
2 videotaped comments by crime victims prior to a release  
3 decision.

4 (4) To represent the interests of a crime victim under  
5 section 502.

6 (5) To act as a liaison with the victim notification  
7 program director in the department to coordinate victim  
8 notification and services for the department and the board.  
9 The victim advocate is authorized to address the interests of  
10 all victims before the board, department or hearing examiner  
11 concerning any issues determined appropriate by the victim  
12 advocate.

13 (6) To act as an advocate for victims and survivors of  
14 traffic accidents and their families by offering services  
15 including, but not limited to, grief and crisis counseling,  
16 assistance with preparing victim compensation claims other  
17 than third-party legal action, connecting individuals with  
18 other service providers and supplying emergency financial  
19 assistance.

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