

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 383 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, LEACH, GREENLEAF, KITCHEN, RAFFERTY,
 FONTANA, BRUBAKER, STACK, BOSCOLA, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA,
 WASHINGTON AND FERLO, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 20, 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
 18 treatment services. The local rules may not be inconsistent with

1 this section or any rules established by the Supreme Court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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