

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, FERLO AND HUGHES, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JANUARY 25, 2010

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 FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS, one or more problem solving courts which
13 have specialized jurisdiction, including, but not limited to,
14 drug courts, mental health courts and driving under the
15 influence courts, whereby defendants are admitted to a court-
16 supervised individualized treatment program. The court may adopt
17 local rules for the administration of problem solving courts and



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

4 (b) Statewide problem solving courts coordinator.--The TO ←  
5 THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, THE Supreme Court may  
6 appoint a Statewide problem solving courts coordinator. The  
7 coordinator may:

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

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

13 (3) Provide coordination and technical assistance for  
14 grant applications.

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

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

21 (c) Advisory committee.--The Supreme Court may establish, ←  
22 FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS, an interdisciplinary and interbranch  
23 advisory committee to advise and assist the Statewide problem  
24 solving courts coordinator in monitoring and administrating  
25 problem solving courts Statewide.

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