

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2671 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, HARHAI, THOMAS, BRADFORD, CALTAGIRONE,
COHEN, FRANKEL, GEORGE, GOODMAN, HESS, JAMES, MILLARD, MILNE,
MYERS, NEILSON, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, READSHAW, WATERS,
YOUNGBLOOD AND D. COSTA, OCTOBER 17, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, OCTOBER 17, 2012

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Louis Braille Commission for the Blind; and
2 providing for its powers and duties.

3 The General Assembly find and declares that:

4 (1) In response to changes in the standard practices and
5 procedures of State government, there is a need to study the
6 demand for the publication of Commonwealth documents and forms
7 in braille for the purpose of better serving our blind and
8 partially sighted constituency.

9 (2) Such study can best be accomplished by establishing a
10 commission to perform that function.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Short title.

14 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Commonwealth
15 Documents in Braille Study Act.

16 Section 2. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Commission." The Louis Braille Commission for the Blind
4 established by this act.

5 Section 3. Louis Braille Commission for the Blind.

6 (a) Establishment.--The Louis Braille Commission for the
7 Blind is established.

8 (b) Membership.--The commission shall consist of the
9 following members:

10 (1) The Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, or his
11 designee.

12 (2) The Secretary of Aging, or his designee.

13 (3) The Secretary of General Services, or his designee.

14 (4) The Secretary of Health, or his designee.

15 (5) The Secretary of Labor and Industry, or his
16 designee.

17 (6) The Secretary of Public Welfare, or his designee.

18 (7) The Secretary of Revenue, or his designee.

19 (8) A member of the Pennsylvania Association for the
20 Blind, appointed by the association.

21 (c) Meetings.--The Governor shall convene the initial
22 meeting of the commission, at which meeting a chairman shall be
23 elected by the members of the commission. The chairman shall
24 convene meetings as necessary for the performance of the duties
25 of the commission.

26 (d) Powers and duties.--The commission shall:

27 (1) Conduct a study of:

28 (i) Which State publications and forms are being
29 printed in braille and distributed.

30 (ii) The manner in which State publications and

1 forms are being printed in braille and distributed to the
2 blind and partially sighted citizens.

3 (iii) The need to further publish State publications
4 and forms in braille.

5 (2) Make recommendations of changes to better improve
6 distribution of State publications and forms in braille.

7 (3) Make recommendations of how to better inform and
8 educate our blind and partially sighted constituency on new
9 developments in State government.

10 Section 4. Report.

11 The commission shall submit a written report to the General
12 Assembly that provides the results of its study and
13 recommendations to the General Assembly once each calendar
14 quarter for one year after the effective date of this section.

15 Section 5. Expiration.

16 This act shall expire on November 30, 2014.

17 Section 6. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect in 60 days.