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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 221 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY CALTAGIRONE, YOUNGBLOOD, BISHOP, THOMAS, KILLION,  
RAPP, KOTIK, JAMES, SCHLOSSBERG, DAVIDSON, O'BRIEN, GRELL,  
HARHART, HARKINS, WATSON, SCHWEYER, MURT, GILLEN AND GIBBONS,  
JANUARY 26, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 26, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 53  
2 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
3 Statutes, in selection and retention of judicial officers,  
4 further providing for continuing education requirement; and,  
5 in municipal police education and training, further providing  
6 for powers and duties of Municipal Police Officers' Education  
7 and Training Commission.

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

10 Section 1. Section 3118(a) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania  
11 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

12 § 3118. Continuing education requirement.

13 (a) Magisterial district judges.--

14 (1) Every magisterial district judge shall complete a  
15 continuing education program each year equivalent to not less  
16 than 32 hours per year in such courses or programs as are  
17 approved by the board[.], including, but not limited to, the  
18 identification of mental illness and intellectual  
19 disabilities and the availability of diversionary options for

1 individuals with mental illness or intellectual disabilities.

2 (2) If a magisterial district judge fails to meet these  
3 continuing education requirements, such judge shall be  
4 subject to suspension by the Supreme Court until such time as  
5 evidence of compliance with such requirements is submitted by  
6 the board, but in no event longer than six months at which  
7 time the failure to meet the continuing education  
8 requirements shall be grounds for the Supreme Court, after a  
9 hearing, to declare a vacancy in that district.

10 \* \* \*

11 Section 2. Section 2164 of Title 53 is amended by adding a  
12 paragraph to read:

13 § 2164. Powers and duties of commission.

14 The powers and duties of the commission shall be as follows:

15 \* \* \*

16 (1.1) To provide training for police officers with  
17 respect to:

18 (i) Recognition of mental illness and intellectual  
19 disabilities.

20 (ii) Proper techniques to interact with and de-  
21 escalate individuals engaging in behavior indicative of  
22 mental illness or intellectual disability.

23 (iii) Instruction on services available to  
24 individuals with mental illness or intellectual  
25 disabilities.

26 \* \* \*

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.