

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 517 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, MURT, DEAN, YOUNGBLOOD, NEILSON, WARD,  
STURLA, O'BRIEN, BARRAR, DONATUCCI, FREEMAN, D. COSTA,  
McCLINTON AND ROZZI, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

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," in  
7 miscellaneous provisions, providing for disclosure and  
8 confidentiality of victims' records.

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

11 Section 1. The act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111),  
12 known as the Crime Victims Act, is amended by adding a section  
13 to read:

14 Section 5101.1. Disclosure and confidentiality of victims'  
15 records.

16 All records pertaining to a victim in the possession of or  
17 maintained by the Office of Victim Advocate, including  
18 information regarding a victim's current contact information and  
19 any other information or record relating thereto, are the  
20 property of the Office of Victim Advocate. The records shall be

1 kept confidential and shall not be subject to the provisions of  
2 the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-  
3 to-Know Law. Victim information and records relating to a victim  
4 contained in the database or maintained in relation thereto may  
5 be released by the Office of Victim Advocate to a State or local  
6 government agency that has a duty or need to maintain contact  
7 with the victim but shall not be disclosed to any other person  
8 without the written consent of the victim.

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