
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 365 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY WHITE, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in burglary and other criminal
3 intrusion, providing for arrest or removal of persons from
4 residential property.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 3503.1. Arrest or removal of persons from residential
10 property.

11 (a) General rule.--A law enforcement officer having probable
12 cause to believe that a person on residential property has no
13 lawful right of occupancy or entry on the property or is
14 trespassing as provided under section 3503 (relating to criminal
15 trespass), shall have the authority to arrest the person or to
16 remove the person from the premises without making an arrest.

17 (b) Warrant required.--If probable cause exists to believe
18 that a person on a residential property has no lawful right of
19 occupancy or entry based on an affidavit submitted under

1 subsection (d), a law enforcement officer shall obtain a search
2 warrant prior to entering the property.

3 (c) Limitation.--A law enforcement officer arresting or
4 removing a person under this section shall provide the person
5 with a reasonable opportunity to secure and present credible
6 evidence showing that the person is an owner or tenant or a
7 guest or invitee of an owner or tenant.

8 (d) Affidavit.--The owner of residential property may
9 initiate an investigation and request removal of a person by
10 providing to law enforcement a signed affidavit stating all of
11 the following:

12 (1) The affiant is the owner or authorized agent of the
13 owner of residential property located at a given address.

14 (2) A person who is not licensed or privileged to do so
15 has entered or remained on the premises.

16 (3) The person is not and, to the affiant's knowledge
17 and belief, has not been a tenant at the address.

18 (4) The affiant has demanded that the person vacate the
19 premises and the person has not done so.

20 (5) The affiant understands that a person removed from
21 residential property under this section may bring a cause of
22 action for damages resulting from a false statement made in
23 the affidavit.

24 (6) The affiant understands and acknowledges the
25 prohibitions in the act of April 6, 1951 (P.L.69, No.20),
26 known as The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951, against taking
27 or detaining a tenant's personal property or removing or
28 excluding a tenant from residential property without an
29 authorizing court order.

30 (e) False statements.--A person who makes a false statement

1 in an affidavit under subsection (d) when the person does not
2 believe the statement to be true commits an offense under
3 section 4903 (relating to false swearing). In addition to
4 criminal penalties, the affiant may be liable for civil damages
5 resulting from the false statement.

6 (f) Definition.--As used in this section, the term
7 "residential property" means a dwelling intended for human
8 habitation, including a house, apartment, mobile home or
9 manufactured home.

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