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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 591 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, SCHLOSSBERG, SNYDER, McNEILL, DEASY,  
SOLOMON, MACKENZIE, KINSEY, KORTZ, HILL-EVANS, NEILSON AND  
SIMS, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Establishing safety assessments for magisterial district court  
2 offices and legislative district offices; and imposing duties  
3 on the Pennsylvania State Police.

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

6 Section 1. Requirement for annual safety assessment.

7 Within one year of the effective date of this section, and  
8 each year thereafter, a safety assessment shall be conducted for  
9 each operational magisterial district court office and  
10 operational legislative district office in this Commonwealth.

11 Section 2. New locations.

12 If a new or additional location is leased to serve as a  
13 magisterial district court office or legislative district office  
14 in this Commonwealth after the effective date of this section, a  
15 safety assessment shall be conducted for that office within one  
16 year after the opening of that new or relocated office, and each  
17 year thereafter, for the period in which that office is  
18 operational.

1 Section 3. Conducting safety assessment.

2 Only a law enforcement officer who has received a  
3 certification in physical security training from the United  
4 States Department of Homeland Security may conduct a safety  
5 assessment under this act.

6 Section 4. Contents of safety assessment.

7 A safety assessment shall include at a minimum a written  
8 analysis of the following for each operational magisterial  
9 district court office and operational legislative district  
10 office:

11 (1) The physical safety of the office structure and  
12 security measures currently in place.

13 (2) The measures that can be taken to enhance protection  
14 of the office, office staff, other occupants of the office  
15 structure and the structure itself, including supporting  
16 information documenting the validity of the measures and,  
17 where possible, the cost estimates.

18 (3) Safety policy recommendations that may include staff  
19 training requirements in de-escalation tactics, threat  
20 assessments or other safety procedures.

21 (4) An analysis of the coordination of local emergency  
22 services specifically related to the office, office staff and  
23 other occupants of the office structure.

24 Section 5. Duties of the Pennsylvania State Police.

25 The Pennsylvania State Police shall coordinate efforts for  
26 safety assessments under this act and shall:

27 (1) Develop forms and any necessary procedures to  
28 receive the information under section 4.

29 (2) Within 18 months of the effective date of this  
30 section, and each year thereafter, submit a report to the

1 General Assembly containing a summary of the information  
2 under section 4.

3 (3) Take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that  
4 the conduct of the safety assessments, the receipt of the  
5 information under section 4 and the preparation and submittal  
6 of the annual reports under paragraph (2) do not compromise  
7 safety or security measures for the magisterial district  
8 court offices or legislative district offices.

9 Section 6. Effective date.

10 This act shall take effect immediately.