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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 878 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY GALLOWAY, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN, MILLARD, SIMMONS,  
BARRAR, READSHAW, McNEILL, DEASY, FRANKEL, McCLINTON,  
DAVIDSON AND STRUZZI, MARCH 25, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 25, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in organization and  
3 jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, further providing for  
4 problem-solving courts; and, in magisterial district judges,  
5 further providing for jurisdiction and venue.

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

8 Section 1. Section 916(a) and (b)(1) of Title 42 of the  
9 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

10 § 916. Problem-solving courts.

11 (a) Establishment.--

12 (1) The court of common pleas of a judicial district and  
13 the Municipal Court of Philadelphia may establish, from  
14 available funds, one or more problem-solving courts which  
15 have specialized jurisdiction, including, but not limited to,  
16 drug courts, mental health courts and driving under the  
17 influence courts, whereby defendants are admitted to a court-  
18 supervised individualized treatment program. The court may  
19 adopt local rules for the administration of problem-solving

1 courts and their related treatment services. The local rules  
2 may not be inconsistent with this section or any rules  
3 established by the Supreme Court.

4 (2) A magisterial district judge shall have concurrent  
5 jurisdiction with a drug court established under paragraph  
6 (1) and may establish a drug court in accordance with  
7 paragraph (1). A magisterial district judge who administers  
8 or establishes a drug court shall adopt the local rules for  
9 the administration of a drug court and related treatment  
10 services adopted under paragraph (1).

11 (b) Statewide problem-solving courts coordinator.--To the  
12 extent that funds are available, the Supreme Court may appoint a  
13 Statewide problem-solving courts coordinator. The coordinator  
14 may:

15 (1) Encourage and assist in the establishment of  
16 problem-solving courts in each judicial district and drug  
17 courts in magisterial districts.

18 \* \* \*

19 Section 2. Section 1515(a) of Title 42 is amended by adding  
20 a paragraph to read:

21 § 1515. Jurisdiction and venue.

22 (a) Jurisdiction.--Except as otherwise prescribed by general  
23 rule adopted pursuant to section 503 (relating to reassignment  
24 of matters), magisterial district judges shall, under procedures  
25 prescribed by general rule, have jurisdiction of all of the  
26 following matters:

27 \* \* \*

28 (6.2) Drug courts in accordance with section 916  
29 (relating to problem-solving courts).

30 \* \* \*

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