
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 918 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, OCTOBER 23, 2019

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 23, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in bonds and
3 recognizances, further providing for right to bail; and
4 making an appropriation.

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

7 Section 1. Section 5701 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

9 § 5701. Right to bail.

10 (a) General rule.--All prisoners shall beailable by
11 sufficient sureties and may not be imprisoned prior to trial for
12 inability to satisfy a monetary condition for release, whether
13 in the form of cash or secured bond, unless:

14 (1) for capital offenses or for offenses for which the
15 maximum sentence is life imprisonment; or

16 (2) no condition or combination of conditions other than
17 imprisonment will reasonably reduce the risk of flight and
18 assure the safety of any person and the community when the
19 proof is evident or presumption great.

1 (b) Consideration of risk and safety.--

2 (1) In assessing the risk of flight under subsection (a)
3 (2), only prior instances of not appearing for court dates by
4 the prisoner may be considered.

5 (2) In assessing safety of any person and the community
6 under subsection (a)(2) only behavior of the prisoner related
7 to the current offense and a conviction of a prior offense
8 may be considered.

9 Section 2. The sum of \$500,000 is hereby appropriated to the
10 Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the purpose
11 of providing grants to counties to establish and administer
12 pilot programs for transmitting to defendants electronic text
13 message reminders relating to appearances at upcoming court
14 dates.

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