
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 976 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY REGAN, MASTRIANO, ARGALL, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA,
BREWSTER, BROWNE, COSTA, DINNIMAN, KILLION, MARTIN, MENSCH,
PHILLIPS-HILL, STEFANO, J. WARD AND K. WARD,
DECEMBER 12, 2019

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

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.

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

7 Section 1. Section 916(a) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by
9 adding subsections to read:

10 § 916. Problem-solving courts.

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

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

4 * * *

5 (d) Veterans courts.--

6 (1) If a court of common pleas or the Municipal Court of
7 Philadelphia has established a veterans court under
8 subsection (a), the court may provide for participation by
9 defendants from adjacent counties.

10 (2) A court of common pleas or the Municipal Court of
11 Philadelphia may join with courts in adjacent counties to
12 establish a multicounty veterans court.

13 (e) Veterans track.--If a court of common pleas or the
14 Municipal Court of Philadelphia established a problem-solving
15 court under subsection (a), except for a veterans court, the
16 court may establish a veterans track within the problem-solving
17 court. As used in this subsection, the term "veterans track"
18 means a program that utilizes some components of a veterans
19 court, including, but not limited to, treatment resources and
20 veteran mentors and does not have the population and judicial
21 resources to sustain of a full veterans court.

22 (f) Local rules.--A court of common pleas or the Municipal
23 Court of Philadelphia that established a veterans court,
24 multicounty veterans court or veterans track under this section
25 may adopt local rules for the administration of the courts and
26 their related treatment services. The local rules may not be
27 inconsistent with this section or any rules established by the
28 Supreme Court.

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