
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1318 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, TARTAGLIONE, PHILLIPS-HILL, MUTH AND
SCAVELLO, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

AN ACT

1 Providing for admission to practice law in this Commonwealth for
2 certain law school graduates.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the COVID-19
7 Emergency Bar Admission Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "COVID-19." The coronavirus disease 2019, being an
13 infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome
14 coronavirus 2 that was first identified during December 2019 in
15 Wuhan, China.

16 "Proclamation of disaster emergency." The proclamation of
17 disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020,
18 published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), and any renewal of

1 the state of disaster emergency. The term includes any
2 proclamation of disaster emergency related to COVID-19.

3 Section 3. Waiver of bar exam.

4 Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule, or regulation to
5 the contrary, an individual shall be admitted to practice in all
6 the courts of record of the Commonwealth if the individual meets
7 all the following criteria:

8 (1) The individual has graduated or will graduate
9 from an American Bar Association accredited law school or
10 would otherwise be eligible to take the Pennsylvania Bar
11 Examination during the period of time encompassed by the
12 proclamation of disaster emergency.

13 (2) The individual has demonstrated compliance with all
14 other provisions of Rule 203 of the Pennsylvania Board of Law
15 Examiners and has satisfied the requirements for good moral
16 character and general fitness requisite for an attorney-at-
17 law and counselor-at-law as required by the Supreme Court of
18 Pennsylvania.

19 (3) The individual intends to primarily practice law in
20 this Commonwealth.

21 Section 4. Limitations.

22 Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as
23 rescinding any rules promulgated or waivers thereof by the court
24 of appeals pertaining to admission to practice as an attorney-
25 at-law and counselor-at-law that are inconsistent with this act.

26 Section 5. Applicability.

27 This act shall apply to an individual who had an application
28 for admission to the Pennsylvania Bar Examination pending on the
29 date the proclamation of disaster emergency ends.

30 Section 6. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately.