
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 531 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, SANCHEZ, NEILSON, SCHWEYER, GALLOWAY,
HOHENSTEIN, BERNSTINE, KENYATTA, BURGOS, BIZZARRO, ISAACSON,
WEBSTER, CIRESI, DALEY, A. DAVIS, PISCIOTTANO, R. BROWN AND
GILLEN, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 75 (Vehicles) of
2 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in nuisances, further
3 providing for the offense of scattering rubbish; in
4 registration of vehicles, further providing for
5 acknowledgment of littering provisions; in licensing of
6 drivers, further providing for acknowledgment of littering
7 provisions; and, in miscellaneous provisions, further
8 providing for the offense of depositing waste and other
9 material on highway, property or waters.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 6501(b)(1), (2), (3) and (4) of Title 18
13 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended and the
14 subsection is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

15 § 6501. Scattering rubbish.

16 * * *

17 (b) Penalty.--

18 (1) [A] Except as provided for in paragraph (1.1), a
19 person who violates subsection (a)(1) or (2) is guilty of a
20 [summary offense] misdemeanor of the third degree for the

1 first offense and upon conviction thereof shall be sentenced
2 to pay a fine of not less than [~~\$50~~] \$300 nor more than
3 [~~\$300~~] \$2,000 and be required to pick up litter or illegally
4 dumped trash for not less than five nor more than 30 hours to
5 be completed within six months, or to imprisonment for not
6 more than [~~90 days~~] one year, or both.

7 (1.1) A person who violates subsection (a)(1) or (2), in
8 which the collective total weight of the discarded material
9 is less than one pound, is guilty of a summary offense for
10 the first offense and upon conviction thereof shall be
11 sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than
12 \$300 or to imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

13 (2) A person who violates subsection (a)(1) or (2) is
14 guilty of a misdemeanor of the [~~third~~] second degree for the
15 second and subsequent offense and upon conviction thereof
16 shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than [~~\$300~~]
17 \$2,000 nor more than [~~\$1,000~~] \$5,000. The person also may be
18 sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year or be
19 required to pick up litter or illegally dumped trash for not
20 less than 30 nor more than 100 hours to be completed within
21 [~~one year~~] two years.

22 (3) A person who violates subsection (a)(3) is guilty of
23 a misdemeanor of the second degree for the first offense and
24 upon conviction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine of
25 not less than \$500 nor more than [~~\$5,000~~] \$10,000. The person
26 also may be sentenced to imprisonment or to performing a
27 community service for a period not to exceed two years.

28 (4) A person who violates subsection (a)(3) is guilty of
29 a misdemeanor of the first degree for the second or
30 subsequent offense and upon conviction thereof shall be

1 sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than
2 ~~[\$10,000]~~ \$20,000. The person also may be sentenced to
3 imprisonment or to performing a community service for a
4 period not to exceed five years.

5 * * *

6 Section 2. Sections 1317, 1520 and 3709(d)(1) of Title 75
7 are amended to read:

8 § 1317. Acknowledgment of littering provisions.

9 On every vehicle registration card, the following statement
10 shall be printed immediately above or below the signature of the
11 applicant:

12 I hereby acknowledge this day that I have received notice
13 of the provisions of section 3709 of the Vehicle Code.

14 Also printed on the registration card shall be the following:

15 Section 3709 provides for a fine of up to ~~[\$300]~~ \$2,000
16 for dropping, throwing or depositing, upon any highway,
17 or upon any other public or private property without the
18 consent of the owner thereof or into or on the waters of
19 this Commonwealth from a vehicle, any waste paper,
20 sweepings, ashes, household waste, glass, metal, refuse
21 or rubbish or any dangerous or detrimental substance, or
22 permitting any of the preceding without immediately
23 removing such items or causing their removal.

24 For any violation of section 3709, I may be subject to a
25 fine of up to ~~[\$300]~~ \$2,000 upon conviction, including
26 any violation resulting from the conduct of any other
27 persons operating, in possession of or present within
28 this vehicle with my permission, if I do not with
29 reasonable certainty identify the driver of the vehicle
30 at the time the violation occurred.

1 § 1520. Acknowledgment of littering provisions.

2 On every application for a learner's permit or driver's
3 license, the following statement shall be printed immediately
4 above or below the signature of the applicant:

5 I hereby acknowledge this day that I have received notice
6 of the provisions of section 3709 of the Vehicle Code.

7 Also printed on the card shall be the following:

8 Section 3709 provides for a fine of up to [~~\$300~~] \$2,000
9 for dropping, throwing or depositing, upon any highway,
10 or upon any other public or private property without the
11 consent of the owner thereof or into or on the waters of
12 this Commonwealth from a vehicle, any waste paper,
13 sweepings, ashes, household waste, glass, metal, refuse
14 or rubbish or any dangerous or detrimental substance, or
15 permitting any of the preceding without immediately
16 removing such items or causing their removal.

17 For any violation of section 3709, I may be subject to a
18 fine of up to [~~\$300~~] \$2,000 upon conviction, including
19 any violation resulting from the conduct of any other
20 persons present within any vehicle of which I am the
21 driver.

22 § 3709. Depositing waste and other material on highway,
23 property or waters.

24 * * *

25 (d) Penalty.--Any person violating any of the provisions of
26 subsection (a) or (b) commits a summary offense and shall, upon
27 conviction, be sentenced to either or both of the following:

28 (1) To pay a fine of not more than:

29 (i) [~~\$900~~] \$5,000 for a violation which occurs in an
30 easement purchased under the program established by

1 section 14.1 of the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128,
2 No.43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law;
3 (ii) [~~\$600~~] \$3,000 for a violation which occurs in
4 an agricultural security area as defined in section 3 of
5 the Agricultural Area Security Law; or
6 (iii) [~~\$300~~] \$2,000 for a violation which occurs
7 anywhere else.

8 * * *

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect in six months.