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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1458 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY T. DAVIS, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, D. WILLIAMS,  
DRISCOLL, ROZZI, GALLOWAY, CIRESI, CONKLIN, GUENST AND  
SHUSTERMAN, MAY 20, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 20, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111),  
2 entitled "An act providing for victims' rights; imposing  
3 penalties; establishing remedies; establishing the Office of  
4 Victim Advocate, the Bureau of Victims' Services, the  
5 Victims' Services Advisory Committee, the State Offender  
6 Supervision Fund and other funds; and making repeals," in  
7 administration, further providing for office and for powers  
8 and duties of victim advocate.

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

11 Section 1. Sections 301(a) and 302 of the act of November  
12 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act, are  
13 amended to read:

14 Section 301. Office.

15 (a) Establishment.--There is established within the board  
16 the Office of Victim Advocate to represent and advocate for the  
17 interests of crime victims [before the board or department]. The  
18 office shall operate under the direction of the victim advocate  
19 as provided in this section.

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1 Section 302. Powers and duties of victim advocate.

2 The victim advocate has the following powers and duties:

3 (1) To represent the interests of individual crime  
4 victims before the board, department or hearing examiner and  
5 before other government officials.

6 (2) To supervise the victim notification duties  
7 presently conducted by the board.

8 (3) To assist in and coordinate the preparation of  
9 testimony by the crime victims as set forth in sections  
10 501(c) and 502 or the submission of oral, written or  
11 videotaped comments by crime victims prior to a release  
12 decision.

13 (4) To represent the interests of a crime victim under  
14 section 502.

15 (5) To act as a liaison with the victim notification  
16 program director in the department to coordinate victim  
17 notification and services for the department and the board.  
18 The victim advocate is authorized to address the interests of  
19 all victims before the board, department or hearing examiner  
20 concerning any issues determined appropriate by the victim  
21 advocate.

22 (6) As determined by the victim advocate, to represent  
23 and advocate for the interests of crime victims generally,  
24 including the victims of juvenile crime.

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