
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1888 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY RABB, N. NELSON, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, T. DAVIS,
CIRESI, SIMS, LEE, PARKER, SCHLOSSBERG, OTTEN AND SANCHEZ,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 46 (Legislature) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, providing for demographic impact statements in
3 consideration of legislation relating to crimes, offenses and
4 sentencing.

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

7 Section 1. Title 46 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a part to read:

9 PART III

10 LEGISLATION

11 Chapter

12 21. Demographic Impact Statements

13 CHAPTER 21

14 DEMOGRAPHIC IMPACT STATEMENTS

15 Sec.

16 2101. Scope of chapter.

17 2102. Definitions.

18 2103. Demographic impact statements.

1 § 2101. Scope of chapter.

2 This chapter relates to demographic impact statements.

3 § 2102. Definitions.

4 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
5 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
6 context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing
8 established under 42 Pa.C.S. § 2151.2 (relating to commission).

9 § 2103. Demographic impact statements.

10 (a) Authorization.--On request of a member of either chamber
11 of the General Assembly, the commission shall complete a
12 demographic impact statement for any bill or amendment to a bill
13 proposing a change to 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 (relating to sentencing)
14 or 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to crimes and offenses) to determine the
15 impact, if any, the proposed bill or amendment may have on the
16 demographic composition of the criminal offender population or
17 juvenile court system. The demographic impact statement shall be
18 impartial, simple and understandable.

19 (b) Bill.--Except as otherwise provided in subsection (e)
20 (1), no bill for which a demographic impact statement has been
21 requested under subsection (a) may be given second consideration
22 by the chamber of the General Assembly whose member made the
23 request until such time as the commission has attached the
24 demographic impact statement.

25 (c) Amendment.--Except as otherwise provided in subsection
26 (e) (2), neither an amendment for which a demographic impact
27 statement has been requested under subsection (a) nor the bill
28 to which the amendment is offered shall be considered by the
29 chamber of the General Assembly whose member made the request
30 until such time as the commission has attached the demographic

1 impact statement.

2 (d) Contents.--For groups for which data is available
3 regarding racial and ethnic composition, geographic and
4 socioeconomic status, age, gender and religious and
5 ethnoreligious affiliations, the demographic impact statement
6 shall include the following:

7 (1) An estimate of how the legislation would change the
8 demographic composition of the criminal offender population
9 and juvenile court system.

10 (2) A statement of the methodologies and assumptions
11 used in preparing the estimate.

12 (3) An estimate of the demographic composition of the
13 crime victims who may be affected by the legislation.

14 (e) Failure to attach.--The following shall apply:

15 (1) If the commission fails to attach a demographic
16 impact statement to a bill within 10 days after a request for
17 a statement has been submitted to the commission, the bill
18 may be further considered in the same manner as if the
19 demographic impact statement is attached to the bill.

20 (2) If the commission fails to attach a demographic
21 impact statement to an amendment within 10 days after a
22 request for a statement has been submitted to the commission,
23 the bill and the amendment may be considered in the same
24 manner as if the demographic impact statement is attached to
25 the amendment.

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