
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2529 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, KLUNK, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, MADDEN,
INNAMORATO, D. WILLIAMS, SANCHEZ, WEBSTER, CURRY AND DALEY,
APRIL 22, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, APRIL 22, 2022

AN ACT

1 Establishing the PennSERVE Office within the Department of Labor
2 and Industry; creating the PennSERVE Advisory Board;
3 providing for coordination of Commonwealth community service
4 programs; and making a related repeal.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the PennSERVE
9 Act.

10 Section 2. Purpose.

11 (a) Declarations.--The General Assembly declares the
12 following:

13 (1) Service to others is a hallmark of the American
14 character. Throughout history, Pennsylvanians have stepped up
15 to meet challenges by volunteering in their communities.

16 (2) Throughout Pennsylvania communities, there are unmet
17 human, environmental and economic needs.

18 (3) Pennsylvanians of all ages can improve their

1 communities and become more civically engaged through service
2 and volunteerism.

3 (b) Intent.--It is the intent of the General Assembly that
4 this act promotes the following:

5 (1) Making community service the common expectation and
6 experience of all Pennsylvanians.

7 (2) Renewing the ethic of civic responsibility in this
8 Commonwealth.

9 (3) Involving and enrolling individuals in service
10 opportunities that will benefit this Commonwealth while
11 offering workforce development and life skills.

12 (4) Building on the existing organizational framework of
13 State, local and community-based programs and agencies to
14 expand full-time and part-time service opportunities for all
15 eligible individuals.

16 (5) Combining the energy, wisdom, strength and time of
17 our younger and older populations in order to address vital
18 social needs.

19 Section 3. Definitions.

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

23 "Board." The PennSERVE Advisory Board established under
24 section 8.

25 "Community-based agency." A private, nonprofit organization
26 that is representative of a community or a significant segment
27 of a community that is engaged in meeting human, educational or
28 environmental community needs.

29 "Community service." The performance of tasks designated to
30 accomplish any of the following:

1 (1) The promotion of the well-being of children, older
2 adults, persons with physical or developmental disabilities
3 or persons with low incomes.

4 (2) Educational development, including literacy
5 training, adult basic education courses or instruction in job
6 search skills, job application skills, school readiness or
7 postsecondary access.

8 (3) Projects or activities calculated to improve public
9 health and safety.

10 (4) Environmental preservation, enhancement and
11 remediation, including the conservation of natural habitats,
12 maintenance of public lands or promotion of environmental
13 stewardship.

14 (5) Activities to increase the preparation of
15 individuals for disasters, improve individuals' readiness to
16 respond to disasters, help individuals recover from disasters
17 or help mitigate disasters.

18 (6) Facilitate access to services and resources that
19 contribute to the economic well-being of Pennsylvanians,
20 including financial literacy, healthy and affordable housing
21 or improved employment readiness or skills.

22 (7) Impact the quality of life of veterans and military
23 families.

24 (8) Educational activities, through a Pennsylvania
25 education system or community or governmental entity, which
26 instill an ethic of civic responsibility and citizenship in
27 all Pennsylvanians and in particular young Pennsylvanians.

28 "Department." The Department of Labor and Industry of the
29 Commonwealth.

30 "National and Community Service Act of 1990." The National

1 and Community Service Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-610, 104 Stat.
2 3127), as amended.

3 "Office." The PennSERVE Office established under section 4.
4 Section 4. PennSERVE Office established.

5 The PennSERVE Office is established within the department.
6 The department shall provide staff, space, equipment and
7 supplies for the office for the discharge of office duties.

8 Section 5. Responsibilities and duties of office.

9 The office shall:

10 (1) Administer programs of the National and Community
11 Service Act of 1990 for the Commonwealth.

12 (2) Develop a three-year comprehensive national and
13 community service plan and establishment of Commonwealth
14 priorities.

15 (3) Administer a competitive process in compliance with
16 Federal regulations to select service programs to be included
17 in the applications to the Federal agency responsible for
18 administering the National and Community Service Act of 1990.

19 (4) Administer, oversee and monitor the performance and
20 progress of funded programs, including evaluation, monitoring
21 and providing technical assistance.

22 (5) Assist in the development of high-quality community
23 service programs.

24 (6) Develop mechanisms for recruitment and placement of
25 individuals interested in participating in service programs,
26 with a special emphasis on engaging disconnected youth and
27 individuals from unserved communities.

28 (7) Facilitate publicity and recognition of volunteerism
29 and community service.

30 Section 6. State coordination.

1 (a) Consultation.--The office shall meet and consult with
2 other bureaus and offices of the department to coordinate and
3 enhance the quality and efficiency of service, workforce
4 development and job training programs.

5 (b) Education services.--The office may develop jointly with
6 the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Higher
7 Education Assistance Agency a plan to increase community service
8 opportunities for students and graduates. The office may assist
9 the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Higher
10 Education Assistance Agency in preparing a public information
11 program for students and graduates to apprise them of community
12 service options.

13 (c) Aging services.--The office may work with the Department
14 of Aging to expand service opportunities that combine the human
15 resources of younger Pennsylvanians with the human resources of
16 older Pennsylvanians to expand intergenerational programs.

17 (d) Health services.--The office may develop with the
18 Department of Health a proposal that will allow young people to
19 be involved in health-related activities, including educational
20 programs that are aimed at increasing awareness in communities
21 and educational institutions about community health problems.

22 Section 7. Federal coordination.

23 The office shall serve as the liaison between the Federal
24 Government and State, county and local governments for
25 submitting grant proposals, accessing funds, seeking changes in
26 Federal community service laws and regulations and related
27 purposes.

28 Section 8. PennSERVE Advisory Board.

29 (a) Establishment.--The PennSERVE Advisory Board is
30 established within the department.

1 (b) Voting members.--

2 (1) The board shall include at least 15 voting members
3 but not more than 25 voting members, who shall serve for
4 renewable three-year terms consistent with Federal
5 regulations issued under the National and Community Service
6 Act of 1990.

7 (2) Voting members of the board shall include the
8 following:

9 (i) The Secretary of Labor and Industry, or a
10 designee, who shall serve as the presiding officer of the
11 board.

12 (ii) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

13 (iii) The following individuals appointed by the
14 Governor:

15 (A) A representative of a community-based agency
16 or organization in this Commonwealth.

17 (B) A representative of local government in this
18 Commonwealth.

19 (C) A representative of local labor
20 organizations in this Commonwealth.

21 (D) A representative of business.

22 (E) An individual who is at least 16 years of
23 age, less than 26 years of age and who is a
24 participant or supervisor of a service program for
25 school-age youth or of a campus-based or national
26 service program.

27 (F) A representative of a national service
28 program.

29 (G) An individual with expertise in the
30 educational, training and development needs of youth,

1 particularly disadvantaged youth.

2 (H) An individual with experience in promoting
3 the involvement of older adults who are 55 years of
4 age or older in service and volunteerism.

5 (I) A representative of the volunteer sector.

6 (iv) A member of the Senate appointed by the
7 Majority Leader of the Senate.

8 (v) A member of the House of Representatives
9 appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of
10 Representatives.

11 (vi) A member of the Senate appointed by the
12 Minority Leader of the Senate.

13 (vii) A member of the House of Representatives
14 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
15 Representatives.

16 (c) Representation.--A voting member of the board may
17 represent none, one or more than one category specified in
18 subsection (b) (2) (iii).

19 (d) Nonvoting members.--The board may include the following
20 public officials as nonvoting members:

21 (1) The Secretary of Aging.

22 (2) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development.

23 (3) The Secretary of Corrections.

24 (4) The Secretary of Health.

25 (5) The Secretary of Human Services.

26 (6) The executive director of the Pennsylvania Higher
27 Education Assistance Agency.

28 (e) Public officials.--The terms of office of the elected
29 public officials designated in subsection (b) (2) (iii) (B), (iv),
30 (v), (vi) and (vii) shall coincide with the terms of their

1 respective elective or appointive offices. Public official
2 members shall continue to serve after the expiration of their
3 term until the appointing authority appoints a replacement
4 unless the member is no longer a public official at the time of
5 their term expiration.

6 (f) Federal representative.--Consistent with Federal
7 regulations, the individual who is an employee of the Federal
8 agency responsible for administering the National and Community
9 Service Act of 1990 and who is designated to serve as a
10 representative to each State or group of States shall be
11 included as an ex officio nonvoting member on the board.

12 (g) Diversity.--To the extent practicable, the board shall
13 be diverse with respect to race, ethnicity, religion, age,
14 gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability
15 characteristics and geographic representation.

16 (h) Chairperson.--The chairperson of the board shall be
17 elected by the voting members of the board. To be eligible to
18 serve as chairperson, an individual must be an appointed, voting
19 member of the board.

20 (i) Rules.--The board may adopt rules governing its
21 organization and procedures.

22 (j) Compensation.--The members of the board shall receive no
23 compensation for their services on the board but shall be
24 reimbursed by the department for ordinary and necessary expenses
25 incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the
26 board.

27 (k) Consultation.--The board shall consult with and advise
28 the office on the development of a Statewide plan for expansion
29 of community service opportunities.

30 (l) Goals.--The board shall:

1 (1) Encourage all Pennsylvanians to participate in
2 community service.

3 (2) Disseminate information concerning community
4 service.

5 (3) Monitor the effectiveness and geographical
6 distribution of community service programs.

7 (m) Novel programs.--The board may develop novel community
8 service programs.

9 (n) Support services.--The board shall be supported in its
10 duties by the staff of the office and may use operational
11 support services of the office, such as mailing and duplication
12 services, to carry out its duties.

13 Section 9. Repeal.

14 Article XXII-B of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175),
15 known as The Administrative Code of 1929, is repealed.

16 Section 10. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect immediately.