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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 584 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, KOSIEROWSKI, MADDEN,  
HOHENSTEIN, HANBIDGE, RABB, CIRESI, SANCHEZ, KINKEAD,  
SHUSTERMAN, PARKER, GIRAL, D. WILLIAMS, GALLOWAY AND CONKLIN,  
MARCH 20, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 20, 2023

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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 preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions;  
8 and, in services, further providing for establishment of  
9 basic services for victims of crime.

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

12 Section 1. Section 103 of the act of November 24, 1998  
13 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act, is amended by  
14 adding a definition to read:

15 Section 103. Definitions.

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

19 \* \* \*

20 "Hospital." As follows:

1           (1) An institution with an organized medical staff  
2 established for the purpose of providing to inpatients, by or  
3 under the supervision of physicians, diagnostic and  
4 therapeutic services for the care of individuals who are  
5 injured, disabled, pregnant, diseased, sick or mentally ill  
6 or rehabilitation services for the rehabilitation of  
7 individuals who are injured, disabled, pregnant, diseased,  
8 sick or mentally ill.

9           (2) The term includes facilities for the diagnosis and  
10 treatment of disorders within the scope of specific medical  
11 specialties.

12           (3) The term excludes facilities caring exclusively for  
13 the mentally ill.

14 \* \* \*

15           Section 2. Section 902(2)(ii) of the act is amended to read:  
16 Section 902. Establishment of basic services for victims of  
17           crime.

18           The commission shall provide technical assistance to and make  
19 grants to district attorneys, other criminal justice agencies or  
20 victim service agencies which provide crime victims with the  
21 following services:

22 \* \* \*

23           (2) Protection services, including all of the following:

24 \* \* \*

25           (ii) A secure waiting area during court proceedings  
26 which does not require them to be in close proximity to  
27 defendants and families and friends of defendants[.] as  
28 follows:

29           (A) The secure waiting area shall be a locked  
30 room within the judicial center or courthouse which

1 is exclusively used by victims, witnesses, attorneys  
2 and family members of victims and witnesses. The  
3 secure waiting area shall be designed to accommodate  
4 these individuals.

5 (B) The commission shall set standards of  
6 construction for a secure waiting area and complete  
7 annual inspections of each secure waiting area in  
8 this Commonwealth to ensure compliance with the  
9 standards set by the commission.

10 (iii) A secure waiting area in a hospital which does  
11 not require them to be in close proximity to defendants  
12 and families and friends of defendants as follows:

13 (A) The secure waiting area shall be a locked  
14 room within a hospital which is exclusively used by  
15 victims, witnesses, attorneys and family members of  
16 victims. The secure waiting area shall be designed to  
17 accommodate these individuals.

18 (B) The commission shall set standards of  
19 construction for the secure waiting area and complete  
20 annual inspections of each secure waiting area in  
21 this Commonwealth to ensure compliance with the  
22 standards set by the commission, in collaboration  
23 with the Department of Health.

24 \* \* \*

25 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.