

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1304 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, PENNYCUICK, HUTCHINSON, ARGALL, STEFANO,
LAUGHLIN, GEBHARD, J. WARD AND MASTRIANO, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating
3 to inmate confinement, providing for overwatch towers.

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

6 Section 1. Title 61 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 5912. Overwatch towers.

9 (a) Staffing of overwatch towers.--At any correctional
10 institution with overwatch towers, each overwatch tower shall be
11 manned by corrections officers during any outdoor inmate
12 movement.

13 (b) Exceptions.--Subsection (a) shall not apply to an
14 overwatch tower from which inmates cannot be supervised during
15 outdoor inmate movement.

16 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
17 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
18 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Overwatch tower." A tall building, freestanding or as part
2 of another structure, from which corrections officers can
3 supervise inmates.

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