

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2143 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY BIZZARRO, THOMAS, BURGOS, HANBIDGE, GROVE,
 KENYATTA, HILL-EVANS, O'MARA, NEILSON, McNEILL, HOHENSTEIN,
 RYAN, SAINATO, YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW, HOWARD, DEASY AND
 DeLUCA, DECEMBER 18, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, DECEMBER 18, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
 2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in organization and
 3 jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, further providing for
 4 problem-solving courts.

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

7 Section 1. Section 916(a) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
 8 Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by
 9 adding subsections to read:

10 § 916. Problem-solving courts.

11 (a) Establishment.--The court of common pleas of a judicial
 12 district and the Municipal Court of Philadelphia may establish,
 13 from available funds, one or more problem-solving courts which
 14 have specialized jurisdiction, including, but not limited to,
 15 veterans courts, drug courts, mental health courts and driving
 16 under the influence courts, whereby defendants are admitted to a
 17 court-supervised individualized treatment program. The court may
 18 adopt local rules for the administration of problem-solving

1 courts and their related treatment services. The local rules may
2 not be inconsistent with this section or any rules established
3 by the Supreme Court.

4 * * *

5 (d) Veterans courts.--If a court of common pleas or the
6 Municipal Court of Philadelphia has established a veterans court
7 under subsection (a), the court may provide for participation by
8 defendants from adjacent counties. A court of common pleas or
9 the Municipal Court of Philadelphia may join with courts in
10 adjacent counties to establish a multicounty veterans court.

11 (e) Veterans track.--If a court of common pleas or the
12 Municipal Court of Philadelphia established a problem-solving
13 court under subsection (a), except for a veterans court, the
14 court may establish a veterans track within the problem-solving
15 court. As used in this subsection, the term "veterans track"
16 means a program that utilizes some components of a veterans
17 court, including, but not limited to, treatment resources and
18 veteran mentors and does not have the population and judicial
19 resources to sustain of a full veterans court.

20 (f) Local rules.--A court of common pleas or the Municipal
21 Court of Philadelphia that established a veterans court,
22 multicounty veterans court or veterans track under this section
23 may adopt local rules for the administration of the courts and
24 their related treatment services. The local rules may not be
25 inconsistent with this section or any rules established by the
26 Supreme Court.

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