

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: Senate Bill 1341

Printer's No.: 1970

Sponsor: Senator Greenleaf

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill consolidates several statutes into Title 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. Title 44 will be known as the Law and Justice Code. Several other titles are amended for the purpose of updating references relating to provisions added to Title 44.

Summary: This codification includes the following statutes: the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law, 1978 Act 274; the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Act, 1984 Act 2; and the Crime Victims' Act, 1998 Act 111. The provisions of these three acts are incorporated into the Law and Justice Code and repealed. The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Act, 1998 Act 152, is repealed as obsolete.

Outline of Title 44

- Chapter 1 (General Provisions; short title: Law and Justice Code)
- Chapter 31 (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency)
- Chapter 73 (Sheriff and Deputy Sheriffs)
- Chapter 75 (Victim Advocate)
- Chapters 81 through 95 (Victim Services)

Technical provisions

The bill amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses), 22 (Detectives and Private Police), 23 (Domestic Relations), 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 61 (Prisons and Parole) to change references from the repealed acts to the provisions of the Law and Justice Code added by this legislation. The bill also includes transitional provisions making clear that all activities initiated by the agencies affected by this bill under the repealed acts shall continue and remain in full force and effect and may be completed under the provisions of the Law and Justice Code.

Effective date

This act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency assisted with the development of this codification. The Victim Advocate also reviewed and approved the legislation.

Current Title 44

Currently, Title 44 (Law and Justice) contains provisions relating to DNA data and testing (Chapter 23) and constables (Chapter 71). These provisions will be retained and will not be affected by the consolidation.

Codification

With the addition of the three statutes codified by this legislation, Title 44 will complement the Crimes Code (Title 18) and the Judicial Code (Title 42) in providing for criminal justice and other legal matters.

Pennsylvania remains the only state that has not completely consolidated its statutes. It is important to bring our statutes together in a concise and coordinated fashion. The use of a consistent style and common definitions for words and phrases makes the law more readable. It is easier for the public to access a well-organized and written body of statutory law.

It is not the intent of this consolidation to make revisions to the law other than the editorial changes needed to conform to the style of the consolidated statutes and the removal of obsolete provisions. By bringing all of the laws together that deal with one particular subject, the law is easier to research, read and understand. In the future, if there are substantive changes to this area of law, they can be made in one bill to one or more titles of the consolidated statutes instead of several bills amending various free-standing acts.