

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL****No. 1538** Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, GUENST,  
HILL-EVANS, D. WILLIAMS, GREEN AND KHAN, JUNE 28, 2023

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AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
DECEMBER 13, 2023

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## AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274),  
2 entitled "An act establishing the Pennsylvania Commission on  
3 Crime and Delinquency, providing for its powers and duties  
4 establishing several advisory committees within the  
5 commission and providing for their powers and duties,"  
6 establishing the Public Safety Resident Communications  
7 Program.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of November 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274),  
11 referred to as the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and  
12 Delinquency Law, is amended by adding a section to read:

13 Section 3.1. Public Safety Resident Communications Program.

14 (a) Establishment.--The Public Safety Resident  
15 Communications Program is established in the commission to  
16 provide notification to an individual as to how to receive  
17 relevant information about the status of a criminal case from an  
18 attorney for this Commonwealth or a law enforcement agency in  
19 this Commonwealth with the jurisdiction to investigate the  
20 criminal case. The program may be used by a law enforcement

1 agency to contact individuals with whom officers of the agency  
2 have interacted. The program shall be administered as a platform  
3 to:

4 (1) Support messaging and survey functions in multiple  
5 languages that are appropriate for each community in which  
6 the platform is deployed.

7 (2) Transmit messages and survey responses to an  
8 English-language dashboard for review to the appropriate  
9 attorney for the Commonwealth or law enforcement agency.

10 (3) Allow the user to choose the language interface  
11 while the user interacts with the platform.

12 (4) Utilize virtual agents that help an individual with  
13 basic questions or suggestions that may be helpful. Virtual  
14 agents may not obtain or send a message that could jeopardize  
15 the successful prosecution of a case. The virtual agents may  
16 not share or obtain information that violates the rights  
17 given to victims of crime within this Commonwealth.

18 (5) Enable an agency to track and audit the messages and  
19 updates sent to ensure that privacy and security are  
20 maintained.

21 (6) Determine jurisdiction and ensure that notifications  
22 are being sent and received by the responsible party.

23 (b) Limitation.--The updates may not require that an  
24 individual download an application, create an account or  
25 register through an Internet website, telephone call or other  
26 method, including electronic mail or text messages, to receive  
27 information.

28 (c) Opt out of notifications.--An individual may opt out of  
29 notifications from the platform at any time.

30 (d) Timing of notifications.--The commission shall make

1 notifications to an individual as soon as possible.

2 (e) Survey tool.--The program shall offer a survey tool  
3 allowing the attorney for the Commonwealth or law enforcement  
4 agency to improve services, track initiatives and identify  
5 issues.

6 (f) Prohibited disclosure.--The commission, a law  
7 enforcement agency or an attorney for the Commonwealth may not  
8 disclose information that could jeopardize successful  
9 prosecution of a case unless the information is required to be  
10 disclosed under Federal or State law. If the law enforcement  
11 agency or an attorney for the Commonwealth determines the  
12 information cannot be disclosed under the program, a  
13 notification shall be made to the individual on how to obtain  
14 the information.

15 (g) Confidentiality.--Notwithstanding any other provision of  
16 law, information disclosed or circulated through the program is  
17 exempt from access under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6,  
18 No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

19 (h) Guidelines.--The commission shall establish guidelines  
20 for information that is able to be shared through notifications  
21 through the program.

22 (I) RESTRICTIONS.--MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE COMMISSION <--  
23 SHALL NOT BE USED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM  
24 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION  
25 FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF THE BUDGET THAT THERE IS  
26 NO DUPLICATIVE OR SIMILAR CRIMINAL CASE VICTIM NOTIFICATION  
27 PROGRAM OR REPORTING SYSTEM CURRENTLY UTILIZED BY OR UNDER  
28 CONTRACT WITH THE COMMISSION, OR OTHER COMMONWEALTH AGENCY OR  
29 ENTITY THAT SUPPORTS THE PROGRAM STRUCTURALLY OR FINANCIALLY.

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect in six months.