
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 405 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY GALLOWAY, LEE, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, SANCHEZ,
SCHLOSSBERG, PASHINSKI, O'MARA AND SCHWEYER, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

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; and, in magisterial district judges,
5 further providing for jurisdiction and venue.

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

8 Section 1. Section 916(a) and (b)(1) of Title 42 of the
9 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, amended November 3, 2020
10 (P.L.1090, No.111), are amended to read:

11 § 916. Problem-solving courts.

12 (a) Establishment.--

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

1 program. The court may adopt local rules for the
2 administration of problem-solving courts and their related
3 treatment services. The local rules may not be inconsistent
4 with this section or any rules established by the Supreme
5 Court.

6 (2) A magisterial district judge shall have concurrent
7 jurisdiction with a drug court established under paragraph
8 (1) and may establish a drug court in accordance with
9 paragraph (1). A magisterial district judge who administers
10 or establishes a drug court shall adopt the local rules for
11 the administration of a drug court and related treatment
12 services adopted under paragraph (1).

13 (b) Statewide problem-solving courts coordinator.--To the
14 extent that funds are available, the Supreme Court may appoint a
15 Statewide problem-solving courts coordinator. The coordinator
16 may:

17 (1) Encourage and assist in the establishment of
18 problem-solving courts in each judicial district and drug
19 courts in magisterial districts.

20 * * *

21 Section 2. Section 1515(a) of Title 42 is amended by adding
22 a paragraph to read:

23 § 1515. Jurisdiction and venue.

24 (a) Jurisdiction.--Except as otherwise prescribed by general
25 rule adopted pursuant to section 503 (relating to reassignment
26 of matters), magisterial district judges shall, under procedures
27 prescribed by general rule, have jurisdiction of all of the
28 following matters:

29 * * *

30 (6.2) Drug courts in accordance with section 916

1 (relating to problem-solving courts).

2 * * *

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