

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 769 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, FONTANA AND HAYWOOD, JUNE 15, 2023

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 15, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled  
 2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the  
 3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the  
 4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative  
 5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,  
 6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or  
 7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or  
 8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative  
 9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and  
 10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative  
 11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,  
 12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the  
 13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive  
 14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of  
 15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and  
 16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,  
 17 and commissions; providing for judicial administration; and  
 18 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation  
 19 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of  
 20 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be  
 21 determined," in organization of departmental administrative  
 22 boards and commissions and of advisory boards and  
 23 commissions, establishing the Legislative Youth Advisory  
 24 Council and providing for duties of the Legislative Youth  
 25 Advisory Council.

26 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 27 hereby enacts as follows:

28 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known  
 29 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding a  
 30 section to read:

1 Section 475.1. Legislative Youth Advisory Council.--(a) The  
2 Legislative Youth Advisory Council is established to examine  
3 issues of importance to youth, including education, employment,  
4 strategies to increase youth participation in State and  
5 municipal government, safe environments for youth, substance  
6 abuse, emotional and physical health, foster care, poverty,  
7 homelessness and youth access to services on a Statewide and  
8 municipal basis.

9 (b) The council shall consist of fifty members, one from  
10 each senatorial district, at the time of appointment. The  
11 members of the council shall be no younger than fourteen years  
12 of age and no older than eighteen years of age. The council  
13 shall select a chair from among the members of the council.

14 (c) Members of the council shall serve for a term of two  
15 years and, if eligible, may be reappointed for subsequent two-  
16 year terms.

17 (d) During the first year of the council's establishment,  
18 each member of the Senate shall appoint an individual to the  
19 council. For each year thereafter, an individual may apply  
20 annually to be considered for nomination to the council by  
21 completing an online application form and submitting the  
22 application to the council and the Lieutenant Governor. The  
23 Lieutenant Governor shall make the application form available on  
24 the Lieutenant Governor's publicly accessible Internet website.  
25 The council may develop selection criteria and an application  
26 review process. Upon the conclusion of the application review  
27 process, the council shall recommend nominees to the council to  
28 the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall make the  
29 final selections to the council and notify each applicant of the  
30 final selections.

1 (e) Subject to the supervision of the Lieutenant Governor,  
2 the council shall have the following duties:

3 (1) Conduct periodic seminars for its members regarding  
4 leadership, State government and the General Assembly.

5 (2) Accept and solicit for grants and donations from public  
6 and private sources to support the activities of the council.

7 (3) Advise the General Assembly on proposed and pending  
8 legislation, including Commonwealth budget expenditures and  
9 policy matters relating to youth, and each standing committee,  
10 study commission, committee or task force of the General  
11 Assembly regarding issues relating to youth.

12 (4) Provide an annual report to the General Assembly by  
13 December 1, 2024, and each December thereafter on the council's  
14 activities, including proposed and pending legislation that  
15 implements recommendations of the council.

16 (f) To implement the council's duties under this section,  
17 the council shall meet at least three times per year. The  
18 council may use technology, including remote videoconferencing  
19 technology, to facilitate the members' participation in  
20 meetings. The council may invite members of the General Assembly  
21 to participate in the meetings. The council may poll individuals  
22 who are not members of the council to attain a broad perspective  
23 on various youth policy issues via technology or other means.

24 (g) Members of the council may be reimbursed for expenses  
25 relating to the official duties of the council.

26 (h) The Lieutenant Governor shall provide administration,  
27 supervision and facilitation support to the council. The General  
28 Assembly may provide policy and fiscal briefings and assistance  
29 with drafting proposed legislation. The General Assembly shall  
30 develop internal policies relating to staff assistance for the

1 council, including applicable internal personnel and practices  
2 guidelines, resource use and expense reimbursement guidelines  
3 and applicable ethics mandates. The provision of funds,  
4 resources and staff to the council, including the assignment and  
5 direction of staff, shall be in the sole discretion of the  
6 General Assembly.

7 (i) The Lieutenant Governor, the General Assembly and a  
8 legislative agency, including an official or employe, shall be  
9 immune from civil liability for any injury that is incurred by  
10 or caused by a member of the council and occurs while the member  
11 of the council is performing duties of the council or is  
12 otherwise engaged in activities or receiving services for which  
13 reimbursement is authorized under subsection (g). The immunity  
14 provided by this subsection shall not apply to an injury  
15 intentionally caused by the act or omission of an employe or  
16 official.

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