
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 204 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY A. WILLIAMS, BARTOLOTTA, FONTANA, HUGHES, HAYWOOD,
DINNIMAN, KEARNEY AND SCHWANK, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 23 through 29, 2019, as
2 "Community Supervision Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to an April 25, 2018, report published by
4 Columbia University's Justice Lab, Pennsylvania has the highest
5 incarceration rate in the northeastern United States; and

6 WHEREAS, A recent analysis by the Council of State
7 Governments Justice Center found that 54% of prison admissions
8 in 2019 resulted from supervision violations, with one third of
9 those resulting from technical violations in which no new crime
10 was committed and which cost the Commonwealth an additional \$334
11 million each year; and

12 WHEREAS, While one out of every 53 adults is supervised
13 nationally, in Pennsylvania, one out of every 24 adults is under
14 community supervision; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has both the highest number, 122,351,
16 and rate of adults under supervision; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice reported in
18 2016 that Pennsylvania's population of residents under community

1 supervision grew by 5.3% from the previous year; and

2 WHEREAS, Meanwhile, the number of people on community
3 supervision declined by 1.5% nationally during the same period;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The growing population of adults under supervision
6 and increasing responsibilities, including those relating to
7 registration of sex offenders, ignition interlock for driving
8 under the influence offenders and collecting DNA samples from
9 offenders, have placed a burden on county adult probation and
10 parole; and

11 WHEREAS, Each county probation department operates
12 independently of the others and on the basis of its own policies
13 and procedures with no parent agency to facilitate
14 communications among the departments or to ensure that best
15 practices are used in each county; and

16 WHEREAS, This burden is increasingly straining county budgets
17 and officer caseloads are rising to untenable rates while
18 recidivism is unchanged; and

19 WHEREAS, Reducing community supervision terms would allow
20 Pennsylvania's probation and parole supervising agencies to
21 focus on individuals for the period of time they are at the
22 greatest risk of offending; and

23 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is currently considering
24 legislation to provide additional funding and training to
25 probation and parole officers, providing Statewide guidelines
26 for addressing minor infractions of supervision and
27 incentivizing good behavior through early termination of
28 probation; and

29 WHEREAS, The whole of these reforms promise to refocus
30 community supervision on successful rehabilitation and reentry

1 into society, while allowing officers to spend more time
2 supervising those most in need of their training and services;
3 therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of September 23
5 through 29, 2019, as "Community Supervision Awareness Week" in
6 Pennsylvania.