
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1212 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY MASSER, STURLA, FREEMAN, CIRESI AND WHEELAND,
APRIL 27, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 27, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 75
2 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in
3 budget and finance, further providing for municipal
4 corporation portion of fines, etc. and establishing the
5 Municipal Law Enforcement Accreditation Account; in rules of
6 the road in general, further providing for speed timing
7 devices; and, in powers of department and local authorities,
8 further providing for specific powers of department and local
9 authorities.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 3573(b) of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania
13 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

14 § 3573. Municipal corporation portion of fines, etc.

15 ***

16 (b) Vehicle offenses.--

17 (1) When prosecution under the provisions of Title 75
18 (relating to vehicles) for parking is the result of local
19 police action, all fines, forfeited recognizances and other
20 forfeitures imposed, lost or forfeited shall be payable to
21 the municipal corporation under which the local police are

1 organized.

2 (2) Except as provided in [paragraph (3)] paragraphs (3)
3 and (4), when prosecution under any other provision of Title
4 75 (except Chapter 77 (relating to snowmobiles and all-
5 terrain vehicles)) is the result of local police action, one-
6 half of all fines, forfeited recognizances and other
7 forfeitures imposed, lost or forfeited shall be payable to
8 the municipal corporation under which the local police are
9 organized.

10 (3) When prosecution under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3802 (relating
11 to driving under influence of alcohol or controlled
12 substance) is the result of local police action, 50% of all
13 fines, forfeited recognizances and other forfeitures imposed,
14 lost or forfeited shall be payable to the municipal
15 corporation under which the local police are organized, and
16 50% shall be payable to the county which shall be further
17 divided as follows:

18 (i) Fifty percent of the moneys received shall be
19 allocated to the appropriate county authority which
20 implements the county drug and alcohol program to be used
21 solely for the purposes of aiding programs promoting drug
22 abuse and alcoholism prevention, education, treatment and
23 research.

24 (ii) Fifty percent of the moneys received shall be
25 used for expenditures incurred for county jails, prisons,
26 workhouses and detention centers.

27 (4) When prosecution under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3362 (relating
28 to maximum speed limits) is the result of local police action
29 using devices authorized under 75 Pa.C.S. § 3368(c)(2)(ii)
30 (relating to speed timing devices):

1 (i) One-half of all fines, forfeited recognizances
2 and other forfeitures imposed, lost or forfeited, minus
3 \$1, shall be payable to the municipal corporation under
4 which the local police are organized.

5 (ii) One dollar shall be remitted to the Municipal
6 Law Enforcement Accreditation Account.

7 * * *

8 Section 2. Title 42 is amended by adding a section to read:
9 § 3576. Municipal Law Enforcement Accreditation Account.

10 (a) Establishment.--There is established within the State
11 Treasury a nonlapsing, restricted receipt account to be known as
12 the Municipal Law Enforcement Accreditation Account. The account
13 shall be comprised of fines statutorily designated by section
14 3573 (relating to municipal corporation portion of fines, etc.)
15 to the account.

16 (b) Distribution from account.--The money in the account is
17 appropriated to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
18 Delinquency to carry out the provisions of subsection (c).

19 (c) Law enforcement accreditation grants.--

20 (1) The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
21 shall create and maintain a grant program for distributing
22 money from the account to any Pennsylvania-based nonprofit
23 corporation comprised solely of Pennsylvania municipal police
24 department administrators who accredit law enforcement
25 agencies throughout this Commonwealth.

26 (2) An eligible nonprofit corporation that receives
27 money under paragraph (1) shall use the money solely for the
28 purpose of administering and operating the law enforcement
29 accreditation program.

30 Section 3. Section 3368(a), (c) and (d) of Title 75 are

1 amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to
2 read:

3 § 3368. Speed timing devices.

4 (a) Speedometers authorized.--The rate of speed of any
5 vehicle may be timed on any highway by a police officer using a
6 motor vehicle equipped with a speedometer, except as provided in
7 section 6109 (relating to specific powers of department and
8 local authorities). In ascertaining the speed of a vehicle by
9 the use of a speedometer, the speed shall be timed for a
10 distance of not less than three-tenths of a mile.

11 * * *

12 (c) Mechanical, electrical and electronic devices
13 authorized.--

14 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in
15 section 6109, the rate of speed of any vehicle may be timed
16 on any highway by a police officer using a mechanical or
17 electrical speed timing device.

18 (2) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3),
19 electronic devices such as radio-microwave devices, commonly
20 referred to as electronic speed meters or radar, may be used
21 [only as part of an automated speed enforcement system or by
22 members of the Pennsylvania State Police.]:

23 (i) By members of the Pennsylvania State Police.

24 (ii) Upon completion of a training course, approved
25 by the Pennsylvania State Police and the Municipal Police
26 Officers' Education and Training Commission, by full-time
27 police officers employed by a full-service police
28 department of a political subdivision or regional police
29 department.

30 (3) Electronic devices which calculate speed by

1 measuring elapsed time between measured road surface points
2 by using two sensors and devices which measure and calculate
3 the average speed of a vehicle between any two points may be
4 used by any police officer.

5 (4) No person may be convicted upon evidence obtained
6 through the use of devices authorized by paragraphs [(2)] (2)
7 (i) and (3) unless the speed recorded is six or more miles
8 per hour in excess of the legal speed limit. Furthermore, no
9 person may be convicted upon evidence obtained through the
10 use of devices authorized by paragraph (3) in an area where
11 the legal speed limit is less than 55 miles per hour if the
12 speed recorded is less than [ten] 10 miles per hour in excess
13 of the legal speed limit. This paragraph shall not apply to
14 evidence obtained through the use of devices authorized by
15 paragraph (2) or (3) within a school zone or an active work
16 zone.

17 (4.1) No person may be convicted based on evidence
18 obtained through the use of devices authorized by paragraph
19 (2)(i) unless the speed recorded is 10 or more miles per
20 hour in excess of the legal speed limit.

21 (5) Light detection and ranging devices, commonly
22 referred to as LIDAR, may be used only as part of an
23 automated speed enforcement system or by members of the
24 Pennsylvania State Police.

25 (6) As used in this subsection, the following words and
26 phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
27 paragraph:

28 "Full-service police department." A local or regional
29 police department that:

30 (i) is authorized by one or more political

1 subdivisions;

2 (ii) provides 24-hour-a-day patrol and investigative
3 services; and

4 (iii) reports its activities monthly to the
5 Pennsylvania State Police in accordance with the Uniform
6 Crime Reporting System.

7 "Full-time police officer." An employee of a political
8 subdivision or regional police department who complies with
9 all of the following:

10 (i) Is certified under 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D
11 (relating to municipal police education and training).

12 (ii) Is empowered to enforce 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to
13 crimes and offenses) and this title.

14 (iii) Is a regular full-time police officer under
15 the act of June 15, 1951 (P.L.586, No.144), entitled "An
16 act regulating the suspension, removal, furloughing and
17 reinstatement of police officers in boroughs and
18 townships of the first class having police forces of less
19 than three members, and in townships of the second
20 class."

21 (iv) Is provided coverage by a police pension plan
22 under one of the following:

23 (A) The act of May 24, 1893 (P.L.129, No.82),
24 entitled "An act to empower boroughs and cities to
25 establish a police pension fund, to take property in
26 trust therefor and regulating and providing for the
27 regulation of the same."

28 (B) The act of May 22, 1935 (P.L.233, No.99),
29 referred to as the Second Class City Policemen Relief
30 Law.

1 (C) The act of May 29, 1956 (1955 P.L.1804,
2 No.600), referred to as the Municipal Police Pension
3 Law.

4 (D) The act of July 15, 1957 (P.L.901, No.399),
5 known as the Optional Third Class City Charter Law.
6 The term does not include auxiliary police officers, part-
7 time police officers or fire police.

8 (d) Classification, approval and testing of mechanical,
9 electrical and electronic devices.--The department may, by
10 regulation, classify specific devices as being mechanical,
11 electrical or electronic. All mechanical, electrical or
12 electronic devices shall be of a type approved by the
13 department, which shall appoint stations for calibrating and
14 testing the devices and may prescribe regulations as to the
15 manner in which calibrations and tests shall be made. The
16 certification and calibration of electronic devices under
17 subsection (c) (3) shall also include the certification and
18 calibration of all equipment, timing strips and other devices
19 which are actually used with the particular electronic device
20 being certified and calibrated. Electronic devices commonly
21 referred to as electronic speed meters or radar shall have been
22 tested for accuracy within a period of one year prior to the
23 alleged violation. Other devices shall have been tested for
24 accuracy within a period of [60 days] one year prior to the
25 alleged violation. A certificate from the station showing that
26 the calibration and test were made within the required period
27 and that the device was accurate shall be competent and prima
28 facie evidence of those facts in every proceeding in which a
29 violation of this title is charged.

30 * * *

1 (g) Local ordinance required to enforce.--

2 (1) Prior to use of radio-microwave speed timing devices
3 used for speed timing by local or regional police officers of
4 a political subdivision authorized under subsection (c), the
5 appropriate governing body must adopt an ordinance
6 authorizing the local or regional police department to employ
7 the devices on roads within the boundaries of the governing
8 body where speed limits have been posted according to the
9 results of a required engineering and traffic study and in
10 accordance with section 6109(a)(11).

11 (2) During the initial 120 days of speed enforcement by
12 a local or regional police department of a political
13 subdivision authorized under subsection (c) using radio-
14 microwave speed timing devices, persons may only be
15 sanctioned for violations with a written warning.

16 Section 4. Section 6109(a)(11) of Title 75 is amended and
17 the subsection is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

18 § 6109. Specific powers of department and local authorities.

19 (a) Enumeration of police powers.--The provisions of this
20 title shall not be deemed to prevent the department on State-
21 designated highways and local authorities on streets or highways
22 within their physical boundaries from the reasonable exercise of
23 their police powers. The following are presumed to be reasonable
24 exercises of police power:

25 * * *

26 (11) Enforcement of speed restrictions authorized under
27 Subchapter F of Chapter 33[, except that] in accordance with
28 the following:

29 (i) Except as set forth in subparagraph (ii), speed
30 restrictions may be enforced by [local police] full-time

1 police officers employed by a full-service police
2 department of a political subdivision or regional police
3 department on a limited access or divided highway only if
4 [it] this title authorizes the enforcement and the
5 highway is patrolled by the local or regional police
6 force under the terms of an agreement with the
7 Pennsylvania State Police.

8 (ii) If this title authorizes speed restrictions to
9 be enforced by a police department of a city of the first
10 class, the speed restrictions may be enforced on limited
11 access or divided highways within the police department's
12 jurisdiction. An agreement with the Pennsylvania State
13 Police is not necessary under this subparagraph.

14 * * *

15 (25) As used in this subsection, the following words and
16 phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
17 paragraph unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Full-service police department." A local or regional
19 police department that:

20 (i) is authorized by one or more political
21 subdivisions;

22 (ii) provides 24-hour-a-day patrol and investigative
23 services; and

24 (iii) reports its activities monthly to the
25 Pennsylvania State Police in accordance with the Uniform
26 Crime Reporting System.

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28 subdivision or regional police department who complies with
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1 (relating to municipal police education and training).

2 (ii) Is empowered to enforce 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to
3 crimes and offenses) and this title.

4 (iii) Is a regular full-time police officer under
5 the act of June 15, 1951 (P.L.586, No.144), entitled "An
6 act regulating the suspension, removal, furloughing and
7 reinstatement of police officers in boroughs and
8 townships of the first class having police forces of less
9 than three members, and in townships of the second
10 class."

11 (iv) Is provided coverage by a police pension plan
12 under one of the following:

13 (A) The act of May 24, 1893 (P.L.129, No.82),
14 entitled "An act to empower boroughs and cities to
15 establish a police pension fund, to take property in
16 trust therefor and regulating and providing for the
17 regulation of the same."

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19 referred to as the Second Class City Policemen Relief
20 Law.

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22 No.600), referred to as the Municipal Police Pension
23 Law.

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25 known as the Optional Third Class City Charter Law.

26 The term does not include auxiliary police officers, part-
27 time police officers or fire police.

28 * * *

29 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 120 days.