

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1297 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY A. BROWN, BRENNAN, ROZZI, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS,
BURGOS AND DELLOSO, JUNE 2, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 2, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in employees, providing for ballistic
3 armor requirements for law enforcement officers.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 2173. Ballistic armor requirements for law enforcement
9 officers.

10 (a) Ballistic armor required.--Except as provided under
11 subsection (b), the commission shall require a law enforcement
12 officer, in collaboration with any applicable State or local
13 agency, to be equipped with ballistic armor while engaging in
14 criminal or traffic law enforcement duties. The ballistic armor
15 shall meet all of the following criteria:

16 (1) The ballistic armor shall be Type IIIA, Type III or
17 Type IV on the effective date of this section.

18 (2) The ballistic armor shall be certified by the

1 National Institute of Justice within the United States
2 Department of Justice on the effective date of this section.

3 (3) The ballistic armor shall not be expired.

4 (b) Exception.--A law enforcement officer employed to check
5 parking meters or to perform only administrative duties and
6 auxiliary and fire police shall be exempt from the ballistic
7 armor requirement under subsection (a).

8 (c) Training.--The commission shall provide training to a
9 law enforcement officer on the proper use of ballistic armor,
10 the different classifications of ballistic armor provided by the
11 National Institute of Justice within the United States
12 Department of Justice and when a law enforcement officer should
13 wear additional ballistic armor.

14 (d) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "law
15 enforcement officer" shall mean any of the following:

16 (1) A member of the Pennsylvania State Police.

17 (2) Any enforcement officer or investigator employed by
18 the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

19 (3) A parole agent of the Department of Corrections.

20 (4) A Capitol Police officer.

21 (5) A Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
22 ranger.

23 (6) A drug enforcement agent of the Office of Attorney
24 General whose principal duty is the enforcement of the drug
25 laws of this Commonwealth and a special agent of the Office
26 of Attorney General whose principal duty is the enforcement
27 of the criminal laws of this Commonwealth.

28 (7) Any member of a port authority or other authority
29 police department.

30 (8) Any police officer of a county, region, city,

1 borough, town or township.

2 (9) Any sheriff or deputy sheriff.

3 (10) A member of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

4 (11) A Pennsylvania Wildlife Conservation Officer.

5 (12) A member of a campus police force with the power to
6 arrest under section 2416 of the act of April 9, 1929

7 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929.

8 As used in this paragraph, the term "campus police" has the

9 meaning given in section 302 of the act of November 29, 2004

10 (P.L.1383, No.180), known as the Uniform Crime Reporting Act.

11 (13) A member of the Fort Indiantown Gap Police Force.

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