
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1637 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY GIBBONS, SWANGER, MURT, MARSHALL AND CUTLER,
AUGUST 8, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, AUGUST 8, 2013

AN ACT

1 Providing for abuse of office, for false reports and for
2 penalties.

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

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Abuse of
7 Public Office Prohibition and Penalty Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Elected official." An individual elected by the public to
13 serve a term in an elective office. The term shall include an
14 individual appointed to fill an unexpired term in an elective
15 office.

16 "Elective office." A position in a governmental body to
17 which an individual is required under the Constitution of
18 Pennsylvania or by law to be elected by the public.

1 "Governmental body." A department, authority, commission,
2 committee, council, board, bureau, division, service, office,
3 administration, legislative body or other establishment in the
4 executive, legislative or judicial branch of the Commonwealth or
5 a political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

6 "Public contractor." A party to a contract with a
7 governmental body or an employee of a party to a contract with a
8 governmental body.

9 "Public employee." An individual employed by a governmental
10 body. An individual elected to a governmental body shall not be
11 deemed to be an employee of that governmental body.

12 "Public officer." An individual appointed by an elected
13 official or a governmental body to serve in a governmental body.
14 Section 3. Abuse of office.

15 (a) Prohibition.--It shall be unlawful for an elected
16 official, public officer, or public employee acting at the
17 request of an elected official or public officer, to
18 intentionally do any of the following:

19 (1) Compel a public employee to perform an activity
20 knowing that the activity is not related to the performance
21 of the duties of the office held by the elected official or
22 public officer.

23 (2) Compel a public contractor to provide a good or
24 service for the private pecuniary benefit of the elected
25 official, public officer or another person. This paragraph
26 shall not apply to an attempt to negotiate or enforce the
27 terms of a private or public contract.

28 (b) Penalty.--

29 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), an
30 individual found to have committed an offense under

1 subsection (a) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second
2 degree.

3 (2) If the aggregate value of the activities, goods or
4 services performed or provided in violation of subsection (a)
5 exceeds \$2,000, an offense under this section shall be graded
6 a felony of the third degree.

7 (c) False reports.--An individual who makes a fictitious
8 report or gives false information relating to an offense under
9 this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second
10 degree.

11 Section 10. Effective date.

12 This act shall take effect in 60 days.