

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 627 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, HILL-EVANS, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, CERRATO AND SANCHEZ, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274),
2 entitled "An act establishing the Pennsylvania Commission on
3 Crime and Delinquency, providing for its powers and duties
4 establishing several advisory committees within the
5 commission and providing for their powers and duties,"
6 providing for Public Safety Resident Communications Pilot
7 Program.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of November 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274),
11 referred to as the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
12 Delinquency Law, is amended by adding a section to read:

13 Section 7.3. Public Safety Resident Communications Pilot
14 Program.

15 (a) Establishment.--The Public Safety Resident
16 Communications Pilot Program is established in the commission.

17 (b) Administration.--The program shall provide grants to law
18 enforcement agencies to support the purchase and implementation
19 of community engagement software to the extent funding is made
20 available to the program.

1 (c) Applications.--The commission shall prescribe the form
2 and manner in which an application may be submitted to receive a
3 grant award under the program.

4 (d) Use of grants.--Law enforcement agencies may use a grant
5 award under this program to support the purchase and
6 implementation of community engagement software. The software
7 shall:

8 (1) Supplement and integrate with the existing public
9 safety notification systems, including computer-aided
10 dispatch systems, victims' notification systems or other
11 notification systems of the law enforcement agency.

12 (2) Not duplicate existing public safety notification
13 systems under paragraph (1).

14 (3) Meet law enforcement notification responsibilities
15 under the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111), known
16 as the "Crime Victims Act."

17 (e) Supplement not supplant.--Grant money allocated through
18 the program shall be used to supplement and not supplant
19 existing funding. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
20 prohibit a law enforcement agency from making an application to
21 receive a grant award under the program in a subsequent year for
22 the same purpose and amount as in a prior year.

23 (f) Diversity.--The commission shall ensure that grant
24 awards made under the program are geographically dispersed
25 throughout this Commonwealth.

26 (g) Performance metrics.--The commission shall include
27 performance metrics to measure the progress of grants awarded
28 under the program.

29 (h) Confidentiality.--A record created or obtained through
30 the implementation or operation of the program shall be

confidential and is exempt from access under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the "Right-to-Know Law."

(i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Community engagement software." An accessible digital technology tool or platform that allows for customizable and automated public safety communications from a law enforcement agency to victims of crime and concerned citizens. The software shall also include a survey function that allows the law enforcement agency to gather information to improve services, track initiatives and identify issues.

"Law enforcement agency." A district attorney's office or a public agency of a political subdivision having general police powers and charged with making arrests in connection with the enforcement of the criminal or traffic laws.

"Program." The Public Safety Resident Communications Pilot Program established under subsection (a).

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