
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 996 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, J. WARD AND BROOKS,
JANUARY 4, 2022

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 4, 2022

AN ACT

1 Providing for parental rights protection.

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

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Parental
6 Rights Protection Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

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

11 "Commonwealth agency." Any of the following:

12 (1) The Commonwealth, including the Executive Department
13 and its boards and commissions.

14 (2) An independent administrative department, board or
15 commission.

16 (3) A public official of an entity listed under
17 paragraph (1) or (2), acting under color of State law.

1 "Non-Commonwealth agency." A political subdivision,
2 municipal authority or other local government instrumentality
3 authorized by law, or a public official of a political
4 subdivision, municipal authority or other local government
5 instrumentality acting under color of State law.

6 Section 3. Parental rights protected.

7 (a) General rule.--The liberty of a parent to direct the
8 upbringing, education, care and welfare of the parent's child is
9 a fundamental right.

10 (b) Infringement.--Neither a Commonwealth agency nor a non-
11 Commonwealth agency may infringe upon the right under subsection
12 (a) without demonstrating that the law or ordinance is narrowly
13 tailored to meet a compelling governmental interest by the least
14 restrictive means.

15 Section 4. Applicability.

16 This act shall apply to any State or local law or ordinance
17 whether statutory or otherwise and whether adopted or effective
18 prior to or after the effective date of this section. Any law
19 enacted by the General Assembly after the effective date of this
20 section shall be subject to this act unless the General Assembly
21 expressly excludes that law from this act by specific reference
22 to this act.

23 Section 5. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect in 60 days.