
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 809 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, STAATS, MURT, MILLARD, BURGOS, PYLE AND
BERNSTINE, MARCH 13, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 13, 2019

AN ACT

1 Providing for implementation of workplace violence policies and
2 workplace violence prevention measures by employers and for
3 civil action.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Workplace
8 Violence Prevention Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Employee." Includes any individual employed by an employer.

14 "Employer." Includes any individual, partnership,
15 association, corporation, business trust, the Commonwealth, an
16 agency, authority or instrumentality of the Commonwealth, a
17 political subdivision, an agency, authority or instrumentality
18 of a political subdivision, or a person or group of persons

1 acting, directly or indirectly, in the interest of an employer
2 in relation to any employee.

3 "Workplace violence." Violence, a threat of violence,
4 harassment, intimidation or extremely disruptive behavior by a
5 person against an employee which occurs during the course of the
6 employee's employment or as the result of the employment.

7 "Workplace violence policy." A written policy created by an
8 employer to provide for workplace rules and procedures intended
9 to prevent or respond to workplace violence.

10 "Workplace violence prevention measure." An action taken by
11 an employer for the purpose of preventing or reducing the
12 incidence or severity of workplace violence. The term includes,
13 but is not limited to:

14 (1) Providing training for employees with regard to the
15 employer's workplace violence policy or general training on
16 how to prevent and respond to workplace violence.

17 (2) Hiring or retaining security personnel to provide
18 protection from workplace violence.

19 (3) Deploying electronic security systems, alarms,
20 surveillance systems or other electronic measures intended to
21 identify, monitor or make employees aware of potential
22 workplace violence.

23 (4) Physically modifying the employer's premises or
24 restricting access to certain parts of the premises in a
25 manner intended to provide for the protection of employees.

26 (5) Installing barriers, locks, doors, bulletproof or
27 bullet-resistant windows or other obstructions, partitions or
28 any other physical deterrent intended to provide for the
29 protection of employees.

30 Section 3. Employer rights.

1 An employer shall have the right, at the employer's
2 discretion, to implement a workplace violence policy or any
3 workplace violence prevention measure to provide for the safety
4 of employees provided in compliance with applicable Federal and
5 State law, including the use of a physical barrier that requires
6 a person serving food in any establishment either to open a
7 window or other aperture or to pass food through an open window
8 or other aperture, in order to hand the food to a customer
9 inside the establishment.

10 Section 4. Civil action.

11 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including 42
12 Pa.C.S. Ch. 85 Subch. C (relating to actions against local
13 parties), a party who brings or maintains an action against a
14 municipality in order to obtain relief under this act shall be
15 entitled to recover all of the following:

16 (1) Costs, including attorney fees.

17 (2) Damages in the amount of \$10,000.

18 Section 5. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect November 1, 2019, or immediately,
20 whichever is later.