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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1237 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY PIELLI, BURGOS, HILL-EVANS, DONAHUE, GIRAL,  
D. WILLIAMS, SANCHEZ, HOWARD, RABB, WARREN AND RIVERA,  
APRIL 17, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 17, 2025

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in organization and  
3 jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, further providing for  
4 problem-solving courts; and, in sentencing, further providing  
5 for modification or revocation of order of probation.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 916 heading, (a), (b), (c) and (e) of  
9 Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended  
10 to read:

11 § 916. [Problem-solving] Treatment courts.

12 (a) Establishment.--The court of common pleas of a judicial  
13 district and the Municipal Court of Philadelphia may establish,  
14 from available funds, one or more [problem-solving] treatment  
15 courts which have specialized jurisdiction, including, but not  
16 limited to, veterans courts, drug courts, mental health courts  
17 and driving under the influence courts, whereby defendants are  
18 admitted to a court-supervised individualized treatment program.  
19 The court may adopt local rules for the administration of

1 [problem-solving] treatment courts and their related treatment  
2 services. The local rules may not be inconsistent with this  
3 section or any rules established by the Supreme Court.

4 (b) Statewide [problem-solving] treatment courts  
5 coordinator.--To the extent that funds are available, the  
6 Supreme Court may appoint a Statewide[problem-solving] treatment  
7 courts coordinator. The coordinator may:

8 (1) Encourage and assist in the establishment of  
9 [problem-solving] treatment courts in each judicial district.

10 (2) Identify sources of funding for [problem-solving]  
11 treatment courts and their related treatment services,  
12 including the availability of grants.

13 (3) Provide coordination and technical assistance for  
14 grant applications.

15 (4) Develop model guidelines for the administration of  
16 [problem-solving] treatment courts and their related  
17 treatment services.

18 (5) Establish procedures for monitoring [problem-  
19 solving] treatment courts and their related treatment  
20 services and for evaluating the effectiveness of [problem-  
21 solving] treatment courts and their related treatment  
22 services.

23 (c) Advisory committee.--The Supreme Court may establish,  
24 from available funds, an interdisciplinary and interbranch  
25 advisory committee to advise and assist the Statewide [problem-  
26 solving] treatment courts coordinator in monitoring and  
27 administering [problem-solving] treatment courts Statewide.

28 \* \* \*

29 (e) Veterans track.--If a court of common pleas of a  
30 judicial district or the Municipal Court of Philadelphia

1 established a [problem-solving] treatment court under subsection  
2 (a), except for a veterans court, the court may establish a  
3 veterans track within the [problem-solving] treatment court. As  
4 used in this subsection, the term "veterans track" means a  
5 program that utilizes some components of a veterans court,  
6 including, but not limited to, treatment resources and veteran  
7 mentors and does not have the population and judicial resources  
8 to sustain a full veterans court.

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 2. Section 9771(c)(2)(iv)(B) of Title 42 is amended  
11 to read:

12 § 9771. Modification or revocation of order of probation.

13 \* \* \*

14 (c) Limitation on sentence of total confinement.--There is a  
15 presumption against total confinement for technical violations  
16 of probation. The following shall apply:

17 \* \* \*

18 (2) If a court imposes a sentence of total confinement  
19 following a revocation, the basis of which is for one or more  
20 technical violations under paragraph (1)(ii) or (iii), the  
21 court shall consider the employment status of the defendant.  
22 The defendant shall be sentenced as follows:

23 \* \* \*

24 (iv) The time limitations contained in this  
25 paragraph shall not apply to the extent that a reasonable  
26 term of additional total confinement, not to exceed 30  
27 days, is necessary to allow a defendant to either be  
28 evaluated for or to participate in:

29 \* \* \*

30 (B) a [problem-solving] treatment court provided

1           for in section 916 (relating to [problem-solving]  
2           treatment courts).

3           \* \* \*

4           Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.