

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1376 Session of  
2026

INTRODUCED BY COLEMAN, LANGERHOLC AND PENNYCUICK, JUNE 8, 2026

REFERRED TO AGING AND YOUTH, JUNE 8, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled  
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the  
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the  
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative  
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,  
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or  
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or  
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative  
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and  
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative  
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,  
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the  
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive  
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of  
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and  
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,  
17 and commissions; providing for judicial administration; and  
18 prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation  
19 of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of  
20 certain departments, boards and commissions shall be  
21 determined," in Department of Aging, further providing for  
22 objectives, for powers and duties in general, for area  
23 agencies and powers and duties and for evaluation.

24 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
25 hereby enacts as follows:

26 Section 1. Section 2201-A of the act of April 9, 1929  
27 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, is  
28 amended to read:

29 Section 2201-A. Objectives.--The objectives of this article

1 are:

2 (1) to establish a cabinet-level State agency whose  
3 jurisdiction, powers and duties specifically concern and are  
4 directed to advancing the well-being of Pennsylvania's older  
5 citizens;

6 (2) to effect the maximum feasible coordination of, and  
7 eliminate duplication in, the Commonwealth's administration of  
8 certain Federal and State programs for older Pennsylvanians;

9 (3) to further promote the efficient delivery of certain  
10 social and other services to older Pennsylvanians; [and]

11 (4) to promote the creation and growth of independent clubs  
12 and associations of older Pennsylvanians and related activities  
13 which give promise of assisting older persons to maintain lives  
14 of independence and dignity; involvement in the social, economic  
15 and political affairs of their communities; and dignified and  
16 efficient assistance when disabled or impaired[.]; and

17 (5) to protect older adults in this Commonwealth.

18 Section 2. Sections 2203-A and 2207-A of the act are amended  
19 by adding subsections to read:

20 Section 2203-A. Powers and Duties in General.-\* \* \*

21 (c) The department may not enter into a contract or other  
22 agreement that directly or indirectly limits the oversight power  
23 of the department, the General Assembly or the Auditor General  
24 in furtherance of protecting older adults in this Commonwealth.

25 (d) The department shall provide appropriate training for  
26 each area agency employee as appropriate to each employee's job  
27 responsibilities. The respective trainings shall include:

28 (1) Protective services casework training, which shall  
29 include the following topics:

30 (i) An overview of abuse, neglect, exploitation and

1 abandonment.

2 (ii) Laws and regulations of the Commonwealth relating to  
3 abuse, neglect, exploitation and abandonment of older adults.

4 (iii) Detection of abuse, neglect, exploitation and  
5 abandonment.

6 (iv) Protective services case assessments.

7 (v) Provision of protective services.

8 (vi) Interviewing skills.

9 (vii) The resistant older adult.

10 (viii) Utilization of local resources.

11 (ix) Incompetence or incapacity.

12 (x) Relationships with other agencies.

13 (xi) Confidentiality.

14 (xii) Institutional investigations.

15 (xiii) Service options for victims of abuse, neglect,  
16 exploitation and abandonment.

17 (xiv) Informed consent.

18 (xv) Self-neglect.

19 (xvi) Retaliation.

20 (xvii) Financial exploitation.

21 (xviii) Any other topic that the department deems necessary  
22 to protect older adults in this Commonwealth.

23 (2) Protective services investigation, which shall include  
24 the following topics:

25 (i) Laws and regulations of the Commonwealth related to  
26 investigations and criminal procedures.

27 (ii) The criminal justice system.

28 (iii) Developing the investigative plan.

29 (iv) Investigative techniques.

30 (v) Maintaining control of the interview.

1 (vi) Interviewing reporters.  
2 (vii) Interviewing collateral sources.  
3 (viii) Interviewing victims.  
4 (ix) Observation techniques.  
5 (x) Techniques to obtain documentary evidence.  
6 (xi) Techniques to gather and preserve physical evidence.  
7 (xii) Closing the investigation.  
8 (xiii) Presenting testimony in court.  
9 (xiv) Coordination with other State agencies.  
10 (xv) Financial exploitation.  
11 (xvi) Any other topic that the department deems necessary to  
12 protect older adults in this Commonwealth.

13 (3) Protective services intake, which shall include the  
14 following topics:

15 (i) Interviewing the reporter.  
16 (ii) Completion of the report form.  
17 (iii) Preliminary case status assessment to determine report  
18 categories.  
19 (iv) Requirements for referral of the report to the  
20 protective services staff.  
21 (v) Emergency procedures.  
22 (vi) Confidentiality.  
23 (vii) Any other topic the department deems necessary to  
24 protect older adults in this Commonwealth.

25 (4) Remedial training shall be on any topic in which the  
26 area agency did not receive at least eighty-five per centum  
27 (85%) on the area agency's latest evaluation under section 2211-  
28 A.

29 Section 2207-A. Area Agencies; Powers and Duties.--\* \* \*

30 (e) (1) Each area agency shall meet the following

1 requirements for investigations:

2 (i) The investigation of a report categorized as emergency  
3 shall be initiated immediately following the referral of the  
4 report. A protective services caseworker shall make every  
5 attempt to ensure the immediate safety of the older adult and to  
6 conduct a face-to-face visit as soon as possible. The agency  
7 shall ensure that the face-to-face visit occurs within twenty-  
8 four hours after the report is received.

9 (ii) The investigation of a report categorized as priority  
10 shall be initiated as soon as possible. The agency shall ensure  
11 that reasonable attempts to initiate the investigation are made  
12 within twenty-four hours after the report is received. The  
13 investigation of a priority report is initiated only by contact  
14 with the older adult who is the subject of the report. A  
15 protective services caseworker shall make every attempt to visit  
16 with the older adult face to face within twenty-four hours.

17 (iii) The investigation of a report categorized as  
18 nonpriority shall be initiated in a timely manner but no later  
19 than seventy-two hours after receipt of the report. At the  
20 discretion of the agency, the initiation of an investigation of  
21 a nonpriority report shall include a visit to the older adult  
22 who is the subject of the report when details in the report  
23 indicate a need to see and talk with the older adult face to  
24 face to secure or verify facts essential to the ongoing  
25 investigation. The investigation of a report categorized as  
26 nonpriority shall include at least one visit to the older adult  
27 who is the subject of the report at an appropriate point in the  
28 course of the investigation. Every attempt shall be made to  
29 visit with the older adult face to face.

30 (iv) The investigation of a report categorized as no need

1 for protective services shall consist of the protective services  
2 caseworker's review of the report categorization. If the  
3 caseworker agrees with the initial categorization, appropriate  
4 referrals shall be made within seventy-two hours after receipt  
5 of the report to the area agency on aging service management  
6 system or, if concerning an adult under sixty years of age, to  
7 another community agency, if available. If the caseworker does  
8 not agree with the initial categorization, the report shall be  
9 placed in another category in this subsection and addressed  
10 under the applicable provisions for investigating a report in  
11 that category.

12 (v) The agency shall make all reasonable efforts to complete  
13 an investigation of a report of need for protective services as  
14 soon as possible and, in cases of abuse and neglect, no later  
15 than twenty days after receipt of the report. The investigation  
16 of the report is completed only when the report has been  
17 determined to be substantiated or unsubstantiated and, if  
18 substantiated, after necessary steps have been taken to reduce  
19 an imminent risk to the older adult's person or property.

20 (2) If the requirements under paragraph (1) can not be met  
21 following reasonable efforts to gain access to the older adult,  
22 the protective services caseworker shall document the efforts  
23 made and take action as appropriate and as provided by law and  
24 regulation.

25 (f) An area agency may not enter into a contract or other  
26 agreement that directly or indirectly limits the oversight power  
27 of the department, the General Assembly or the Auditor General  
28 in furtherance of protecting older adults in this Commonwealth.

29 (g) Each area agency employee shall receive appropriate  
30 training provided by the department. As applicable, the area

1 agency shall ensure that all training including any remedial  
2 training is completed in a timely manner.

3 Section 3. Section 2211-A of the act is amended to read:

4 Section 2211-A. Evaluation.--(a) The Department of Aging  
5 shall continually review and evaluate the activities of area  
6 agencies and the impact and effectiveness of all programs under  
7 this act. The department shall ensure that evaluations,  
8 including an onsite evaluation, be made annually of all area  
9 agency activities and programs. A written report of the findings  
10 of the evaluation shall be submitted to the area agency subject  
11 to the evaluation and within thirty days shall be available to  
12 the public. In all evaluations, the department shall obtain the  
13 views of program beneficiaries concerning strengths and  
14 weaknesses of the program. Other departments and agencies of the  
15 Commonwealth shall make available to the department information  
16 necessary for such evaluations. Annually the department shall  
17 submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report on its  
18 activities including statistical data reflecting services and  
19 activities provided older persons during the preceding fiscal  
20 year.

21 (b) The department, no less than annually, shall evaluate  
22 each county agency in this Commonwealth onsite, which shall  
23 include the:

24 (1) Per centum of cases assigned the correct category for  
25 reports of need based on the per centum of:

26 (i) investigations initiated within the applicable statutory  
27 or regulatory time frame;

28 (ii) comprehensive investigations that were completed and  
29 covered all areas of abuse, neglect, exploitation and  
30 abandonment;

1 (iii) case files containing all required documentation  
2 necessary to support service decisions and determinations of  
3 substantiated or unsubstantiated cases;

4 (iv) eligible cases for which a care plan was completed,  
5 documented and presented to the older adult;

6 (v) cases in which assessed risk to the older adult was  
7 reduced or eliminated;

8 (vi) the use of appropriated funding from Federal, State and  
9 local governments; and

10 (vii) cases in which the area agency determined the case to  
11 be classified as no need for further services and the department  
12 reversed the determination.

13 (2) The number of cases in which an older adult died during  
14 an active investigation, and the area agency's actions during  
15 the process.

16 (c) The department, no less than annually, shall evaluate  
17 each county agency in this Commonwealth onsite, which shall  
18 include the following metrics related to OPTIONS as defined  
19 under 6 Pa. Code § 20.2 (relating to definitions), and the  
20 primary caregiver support program under section 4 of the act of  
21 December 19, 1990 (P.L.1234, No.204), known as the Pennsylvania  
22 Caregiver Support Act:

23 (1) The utilization of best management practices for  
24 improving and enhancing the delivery of services.

25 (2) The effectiveness of services provided by the area  
26 agency, and whether the agency addressed specific needs for the  
27 older adults for which the agency provided services.

28 (3) The effectiveness of coordination, planning and  
29 supervising services to ensure that the older adult receives  
30 comprehensive and effective care.

1 (4) Whether the older adult has met the criteria necessary  
2 to qualify for participation in the OPTIONS and primary  
3 caregiver support program.

4 (5) Compliance with established protocols for billing,  
5 provider payment models and use of revenue from any collected  
6 fees.

7 (6) Usage of appropriated funding from Federal, State and  
8 local governments.

9 (d) The department shall issue a score for each metric under  
10 subsections (b) and (c). An area agency must achieve a score of  
11 no less than eighty-five per centum (85%) in each category to be  
12 compliant for the agency's evaluation pursuant to this section.  
13 The following shall apply:

14 (1) For an area agency that is compliant, the department  
15 shall:

16 (i) Annually audit no less than twenty-five per centum (25%)  
17 of alleged older adult abuse cases that an area agency  
18 classified as no need for further services.

19 (ii) Annually audit no less than twenty-five per centum  
20 (25%) of cases that an area agency had an active investigation  
21 when the older adult died.

22 (iii) Monitor the area agency to ensure compliance with all  
23 applicable provisions of law.

24 (iv) Gather stakeholder feedback from victims, older adults,  
25 caregivers and agencies to identify service gaps.

26 (v) Timely address incidents of statutory or regulatory  
27 violations discovered during reviews and provide technical  
28 assistance as needed until the area agency is compliant.

29 (2) An area agency that receives a score of no less than  
30 seventy-five per centum (75%) in any category and was not

1 determined to be compliant under this subsection shall be in  
2 remedial status. For an agency in remedial status, the  
3 department shall:

4 (i) Annually audit no less than fifty per centum (50%) of  
5 alleged older adult abuse cases that an area agency classified  
6 as no need for further services.

7 (ii) Annually audit no less than fifty per centum (50%) of  
8 cases that an area agency had an active investigation when the  
9 older adult died.

10 (iii) Monitor the area agency to ensure compliance with all  
11 applicable provisions of law.

12 (iv) In collaboration with the area agency, develop a  
13 remedial improvement plan, which shall be made available on the  
14 department's publicly accessible Internet website within thirty  
15 days of development, to return to compliance.

16 (v) Provide appropriate training to staff of the area agency  
17 to improve compliance.

18 (vi) Timely address incidents of statutory or regulatory  
19 violations discovered during reviews and provide technical  
20 assistance as needed until the area agency is compliant.

21 (vii) Require the area agency to submit periodic policy-  
22 compliance self-assessments with documentation to the  
23 department.

24 (viii) Gather stakeholder feedback from victims, older  
25 adults, caregivers and agencies to identify service gaps.

26 (ix) Require bimonthly follow-up meetings with area agency  
27 leadership until full compliance is demonstrated.

28 (x) Evaluate the area agency within six months following the  
29 development of a remedial improvement plan.

30 (3) An area agency that received a score of less than

1 seventy-five per centum (75%) in any category and was not  
2 determined to be compliant or remedial under this subsection  
3 shall be noncompliant. For a noncompliant area agency, the  
4 department shall:

5 (i) Annually audit no less than seventy-five per centum  
6 (75%) of alleged older adult abuse cases that an area agency  
7 classified as no need for further services.

8 (ii) Annually audit no less than seventy-five per centum  
9 (75%) of cases that an area agency had an active investigation  
10 when the older adult died.

11 (iii) Monitor the area agency to ensure compliance with all  
12 applicable provisions of law.

13 (iv) In collaboration with the area agency, develop a  
14 noncompliant improvement plan, which shall be made available on  
15 the department's publicly accessible Internet website within  
16 thirty days of development.

17 (v) Provide appropriate training to staff of the area agency  
18 to improve compliance.

19 (vi) Timely address incidents of statutory or regulatory  
20 violations discovered during reviews and provide technical  
21 assistance as needed until the area agency is compliant.

22 (vii) Require the area agency to submit monthly policy-  
23 compliance self-assessments with documentation to the  
24 department.

25 (viii) Gather stakeholder feedback from victims, older  
26 adults, caregivers and agencies to identify service gaps.

27 (ix) Establish an improvement working group with area agency  
28 and department staff to identify steps to have the area agency  
29 be compliant in future evaluations, thus protecting older  
30 adults.

1 (x) Require monthly meetings with area agency leadership  
2 until full compliance is demonstrated.

3 (xi) Reevaluate the area agency within ninety days following  
4 the development of the noncompliant improvement plan.

5 (e) The department shall, no less than annually, complete a  
6 full financial audit of each area agency. The audit shall be  
7 posted on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

8 (f) The Auditor General shall audit an area agency and the  
9 department, as far as may be necessary to satisfy the Auditor  
10 General, that the area agency and the department are complying  
11 with the provisions of this article and the act of November 6,  
12 1987 (P.L.381, No.79), known as the "Older Adults Protective  
13 Services Act," or other relevant statute or regulation. The  
14 Auditor General shall have access to any information or record  
15 necessary to complete the audit in this subsection. Each audit  
16 shall include an evaluation of the area agency and department's  
17 performance of duties as it relates to the classification as no  
18 need for further services and the cases in which an older adult  
19 died during an active investigation. The Auditor General shall  
20 furnish audits no less than biannually. The audits shall be  
21 posted on the Auditor General's publicly accessible Internet  
22 website.

23 Section 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require  
24 the public disclosure of personal information related to an  
25 older adult in this Commonwealth.

26 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.