

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1538 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, GUENST, HILL-EVANS AND D. WILLIAMS, JUNE 28, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 28, 2023

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 establishing the Public Safety Resident Communications
 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 3.1. Public Safety Resident Communications Program.

14 (a) Establishment.--The Public Safety Resident
 15 Communications Program is established in the commission to
 16 provide notification to an individual as to how to receive
 17 relevant information about the status of a criminal case from an
 18 attorney for this Commonwealth or a law enforcement agency in
 19 this Commonwealth with the jurisdiction to investigate the
 20 criminal case. The program may be used by a law enforcement

1 agency to contact individuals with whom officers of the agency
2 have interacted. The program shall be administered as a platform
3 to:

4 (1) Support messaging and survey functions in multiple
5 languages that are appropriate for each community in which
6 the platform is deployed.

7 (2) Transmit messages and survey responses to an
8 English-language dashboard for review to the appropriate
9 attorney for the Commonwealth or law enforcement agency.

10 (3) Allow the user to choose the language interface
11 while the user interacts with the platform.

12 (4) Utilize virtual agents that help an individual with
13 basic questions or suggestions that may be helpful. Virtual
14 agents may not obtain or send a message that could jeopardize
15 the successful prosecution of a case. The virtual agents may
16 not share or obtain information that violates the rights
17 given to victims of crime within this Commonwealth.

18 (5) Enable an agency to track and audit the messages and
19 updates sent to ensure that privacy and security are
20 maintained.

21 (6) Determine jurisdiction and ensure that notifications
22 are being sent and received by the responsible party.

23 (b) Limitation.--The updates may not require that an
24 individual download an application, create an account or
25 register through an Internet website, telephone call or other
26 method, including electronic mail or text messages, to receive
27 information.

28 (c) Opt out of notifications.--An individual may opt out of
29 notifications from the platform at any time.

30 (d) Timing of notifications.--The commission shall make

1 notifications to an individual as soon as possible.

2 (e) Survey tool.--The program shall offer a survey tool
3 allowing the attorney for the Commonwealth or law enforcement
4 agency to improve services, track initiatives and identify
5 issues.

6 (f) Prohibited disclosure.--The commission, a law
7 enforcement agency or an attorney for the Commonwealth may not
8 disclose information that could jeopardize successful
9 prosecution of a case unless the information is required to be
10 disclosed under Federal or State law. If the law enforcement
11 agency or an attorney for the Commonwealth determines the
12 information cannot be disclosed under the program, a
13 notification shall be made to the individual on how to obtain
14 the information.

15 (g) Confidentiality.--Notwithstanding any other provision of
16 law, information disclosed or circulated through the program is
17 exempt from access under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6,
18 No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

19 (h) Guidelines.--The commission shall establish guidelines
20 for information that is able to be shared through notifications
21 through the program.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in six months.