

No. 218

AN ACT

HB 681

Establishing regional community treatment centers for women administered by the Bureau of Correction of the Department of Justice as part of the State Correctional System, providing for the commitment of females to such centers and their temporary release therefrom for certain purposes, restricting confinement of females in county jails and conferring powers and duties upon the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Correction.

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

Section 1. Establishment.—There are hereby established regional community treatment centers distributed geographically throughout the State for the treatment and rehabilitation of female prisoners.

Section 2. Facilities; Acquisition; Construction; Lease.—(a) The Department of Justice, with the approval of the Governor, may acquire by purchase or lease through the Department of Property and Supplies or through The General State Authority, suitable existing facilities.

(b) The Department of Justice, with the approval of the Governor, may select for acquisition, either by the Department of Property and Supplies or by The General State Authority with funds of the authority, tracts of land suitable for the construction of regional correctional facilities thereon. The title to the lands so acquired shall be approved by the Attorney General.

(c) Upon the acquisition of such tracts of land or existing facilities in the name of the Commonwealth, the Department of Property and Supplies shall have authority to convey the same to The General State Authority for the purpose of having such authority erect, construct and reconstruct thereon regional correctional facilities.

(d) The Department of Property and Supplies, with the approval of the Governor, is hereby authorized to enter into a lease with The General State Authority to acquire the use of the regional correctional facilities and any tracts of land in connection therewith.

Section 3. Department of Justice; Powers and Duties.—The Department of Justice shall have the power and its duties shall be:

(1) To operate and manage regional community treatment centers for females;

(2) To provide for the treatment, care, maintenance, employment and rehabilitation of inmates of the centers;

(3) To establish standards for county jails and prisons, including standards for physical facilities and standards for correctional programs of treatment, education and rehabilitation of the inmates;

(4) To inspect county jails and to classify them in accordance with standards adopted under clause (3) of this section as eligible to receive prisoners under this act;

(5) To release any inmate in its custody for such purposes and under such terms and conditions as the Bureau of Correction shall determine.

Section 4. Criteria for Reception of Female Prisoners.—The regional community treatment centers shall receive, subject to the affirmative authorization of the Bureau of Correction, the following:

(1) Females sixteen years or over received by commitment or sentence of the criminal courts;

(2) Women detained in default of bond after preliminary hearing unless the Bureau of Correction affirmatively authorized the use of a county jail in a specific county;

(3) Women detained in default of bond upon arrest if the Bureau of Correction so authorizes, and at the same time, prohibits use of a particular county jail for female commitments except on an emergency basis;

(4) Women sentenced by justices of the peace with authorization for temporary release by the Bureau of Correction and paroled by the court of common pleas without consent of justices of the peace;

(5) Females sentenced by the court of common pleas (i) who remain under county jurisdiction; (ii) who are under State jurisdiction;

(6) Females who are alleged or determined to be in violation of their parole (county or State, convicted or technical).

Section 5. Participation in Programs.—(a) All females on probation or parole may participate in a specified program at the center when operationally feasible in the determination of the Bureau of Correction.

(b) All females on bond and those released or discharged may participate in a specified program when operationally feasible in the determination of the Bureau of Correction.

Section 6. Jurisdiction; Transfer.—All females committed to a regional community treatment center shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction and control of the Bureau of Correction and shall be subject to transfer within the discretion of said bureau.

Section 7. Rules and Regulations.—The Bureau of Correction of the Department of Justice is hereby authorized and empowered to prescribe, adopt, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations in the administration of this act.

APPROVED—The 16th day of October, A. D. 1972.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly
No. 218.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a prominent "T" at the end.

Secretary of the Commonwealth.