

No. 1998-152

AN ACT

HB 501

Establishing the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee; and providing for duties of committee.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

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

“Commission.” The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

“Committee.” The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee established under section 3.

Section 3. Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

(a) Establishment and membership.—

(1) There is hereby established the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The members of the committee shall be the Attorney General, the Secretary of Aging, the Victim Advocate within the Board of Probation and Parole and six members appointed by the Governor to include a county sheriff, a municipal police chief, at least one representative from an organization representing senior citizens, a representative of a local victims' services organization, representatives of units of local government and other organizations, public or private, with experience in crime prevention, the delivery of services to victims of crime or the elderly. The chairperson of the commission may appoint up to four additional members, as necessary, who shall serve at the pleasure of the chairperson and who shall represent the substantive planning efforts of the commission.

(2) Except for the Attorney General, the Secretary of Aging, the victim advocate and those members appointed by the chairperson of the commission, members shall serve for a four-year term and may be appointed for no more than one additional consecutive term. The terms of those members who serve by virtue of the public office they hold shall be concurrent with their service in the office from which they derive their membership.

(b) Number.—The committee shall consist of not more than 13 members in accordance with subsection (a).

(c) Conditions of appointment.—The committee and its members are subject to the same limitations and conditions imposed upon the commission as prescribed in section 2(d), (e), (h), (m) and (n) of the act of November 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274), referred to as the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law.

(d) Vacancies.—A member appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy created other than by expiration of term shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member whom that person is to succeed in the same manner as the original appointment.

(e) Quorum.—A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum, and a vote of the majority of the members present shall be sufficient for all actions.

(f) Chairperson.—The Attorney General shall serve as chairperson of the committee. A member of the committee shall be designated by the chairperson of the commission as vice chairperson and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the chairperson. The term of the vice chairperson shall be concurrent with that member's service on the committee.

(g) Meetings.—The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson, but not less than two times per year.

(h) Designees.—The Attorney General, the Secretary of Aging and the victim advocate may be represented on the committee by designees.

(i) Reimbursement.—Members of the committee shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings of the committee and in the performance of their duties under this act.

Section 4. Duties of the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

The committee shall perform the following duties:

(1) Serve in an advisory capacity to the commission in the development and implementation of that part of the commission's plan relating to preventing crime against senior citizens and to providing services to elderly victims of crime.

(2) Coordinate with the commission's committees or task forces in the definition, development and correlation of programs and projects and in the establishment of priorities for preventing crime against senior citizens and for providing services to elderly victims of crime.

(3) Advise the commission in the collection of relevant statistical data and research as it relates to crimes against senior citizens.

(4) Advise the commission relative to the evaluation of the relationship between crimes against senior citizens and other problems confronting senior citizens and make recommendations for effective policy response.

(5) Upon request, provide assistance and advice to the commission on any other matters relating to the prevention of crime against senior citizens and to the provision of services to elderly victims of crime.

Section 5. Staffing.

Staff support shall be made available to the committee by the executive director of the commission in order to adequately perform the duties provided for under this act.

Section 6. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 21st day of December, A.D. 1998.

THOMAS J. RIDGE