
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2259 Session of
2026

INTRODUCED BY KINKEAD, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, FRIEL, KHAN, PIELLI,
HANBIDGE, HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, RIVERA, BOYD,
BOROWSKI, MADDEN, O'MARA, SHUSTERMAN, WARREN, D. WILLIAMS,
BENHAM, MAYES, WAXMAN, GUENST, KENYATTA AND PARKER,
MARCH 2, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 3, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for actions not
3 permissible in a courthouse; and imposing penalties.

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

6 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

8 CHAPTER 30

9 ACTIONS NOT PERMISSIBLE IN A COURTHOUSE

10 Sec.

11 3001. Definitions.

12 3002. Civil arrest on courthouse grounds.

13 3003. Protected travel to court proceedings.

14 3004. Use of facial coverings on courthouse property.

15 3005. Protected personal information.

16 § 3001. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Court." A court within the unified judicial system as
4 described in section 301 (relating to unified judicial system).

5 "Court companion." An individual whose purpose is to
6 support, assist or accompany an individual who is going to,
7 remaining at or returning from a court proceeding. The term
8 includes:

9 (1) a spouse, domestic partner or individual who has a
10 dating or engagement relationship with the party, witness or
11 potential witness;

12 (2) a biological parent, foster parent, adoptive parent
13 or stepparent of a party, witness or potential witness;

14 (3) a minor child or other individual under the care of
15 a party, witness or potential witness;

16 (4) an interpreter, translator or individual assisting
17 the party, witness or potential witness with reading or
18 completing court forms or other documents;

19 (5) an individual providing health care or assistance to
20 a party, witness or potential witness to allow that
21 individual to participate in the court proceeding;

22 (6) a case manager or social worker for the party,
23 witness or potential witness;

24 (7) a domestic violence or sexual assault advocate; and

25 (8) an individual transporting a party, witness or
26 potential witness to or from the court proceeding.

27 "Courthouse." The interior of any facility or property in
28 which a court conducts business.

29 "Courthouse grounds." A courthouse and any garage or parking
30 lot owned by a court or under contract with a court, for the

1 purpose of serving a courthouse, any walkway or sidewalk on the
2 grounds of, contiguous to or abutting the grounds of the
3 courthouse or connecting the garage or parking lot to the
4 courthouse or grounds of the courthouse.

5 "Immigration enforcement." An effort to investigate, enforce
6 or assist in an investigation or enforcement of:

7 (1) A Federal civil immigration law.

8 (2) A Federal criminal immigration law that penalizes an
9 individual's presence in, entry or reentry to or employment
10 in the United States, including a violation of 8 U.S.C. §
11 1253 (relating to penalties related to removal), 1324c
12 (relating to penalties for document fraud), 1325 (relating to
13 improper entry by alien) or 1326 (relating to reentry of
14 removed aliens).

15 "Judicial warrant." A written order that is signed by a
16 judicial officer from a Federal court that receives its
17 jurisdiction from Article III of the Constitution of the United
18 States or a court and that directs a law enforcement agency or
19 individual who is specifically named in the order to arrest an
20 individual named in the written order to be arrested.

21 "Personal information." The following:

22 (1) an individual's address, workplace or hours of work,
23 school or school hours;

24 (2) the date, time or place of an individual's hearing,
25 proceeding or appointment with a public agency; or

26 (3) any other information that provides the date, time
27 or place of where an individual may be located.

28 "Public agency." The following:

29 (1) an executive, administrative or legislative office
30 of the Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions; or

1 (2) a department, institution, bureau, board,
2 commission, authority or official of the Commonwealth.

3 § 3002. Civil arrest on courthouse grounds.

4 (a) Arrest without warrant.--A representative of a Federal,
5 State or local law enforcement authority may not detain, arrest
6 or otherwise take into custody an individual on courthouse
7 grounds on the basis of immigration enforcement, unless the
8 representative is acting in the representative's official
9 capacity and the representative possesses on his or her person a
10 judicial warrant that clearly demonstrates that the individual
11 to be detained, arrested or otherwise taken into custody is the
12 subject of a judicial warrant.

13 (b) Warrant disclosure.--If a representative of a Federal,
14 State or local law enforcement authority is performing an arrest
15 on the basis of immigration enforcement on courthouse grounds,
16 the arresting representative shall provide the necessary
17 documentation under subsection (a) to any Commonwealth employee
18 who requests to review the documentation.

19 (c) Violations.--An individual that violates this section is
20 subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each violation. A
21 penalty imposed under this section shall be paid to the
22 Commonwealth.

23 (d) Immunity.--No action may be commenced under subsection
24 (c) against the judicial branch or an officer or employee of a
25 courthouse or court office acting lawfully and in good faith
26 pursuant to the officer's or employee's official capacity,
27 regarding actions or omissions of said branch or such officer or
28 employee.

29 § 3003. Protected travel to court proceedings.

30 (a) Travel protection.--

1 (1) An individual attending a court proceeding in which
2 the individual is a party, a witness, a potential witness or
3 court companion of a party, witness or potential witness,
4 shall not be subject to arrest for a civil immigration
5 offense while going to, remaining at and returning from the
6 court proceeding.

7 (2) Nothing under this section shall preclude the
8 execution of a criminal arrest warrant issued by a judge or a
9 criminal arrest based on probable cause for a violation of
10 criminal law, not including immigration law.

11 (b) Violations.--An individual that arrests an individual in
12 violation of subsection (a) is subject to a civil penalty of
13 \$10,000 for each violation. A penalty imposed under this section
14 shall be paid to the Commonwealth.

15 § 3004. Use of facial coverings on courthouse property.

16 (a) Restriction.--A representative of a Federal, State or
17 local law enforcement authority may not, while carrying out the
18 enforcement of laws of this Commonwealth, any other state or the
19 United States, wear a mask or other covering that obscures the
20 face of the individual while on courthouse grounds unless
21 medically necessary and with prior authorization of the court.

22 (b) Violations.--An individual that violates this section
23 shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each
24 violation. A penalty imposed under this section shall be paid to
25 the Commonwealth.

26 § 3005. Protected personal information.

27 (a) Information restriction.--A public agency or employee,
28 appointee, officer or official or any other individual acting on
29 behalf of a public agency may not disclose personal information
30 that is not a matter of public record regarding a court

1 appearance by an individual for a court proceeding in which the
2 individual is a party, a witness, a potential witness or court
3 companion to any other individual or entity that is not a public
4 agency or employee, appointee, officer or official or any other
5 individual acting on behalf of a public agency, unless the
6 disclosure is:

7 (1) authorized in writing by the individual to whom the
8 information pertains or, if the individual is under 18 years
9 of age or not legally competent to consent to the disclosure,
10 by the parent or guardian of the individual;

11 (2) necessary in furtherance of a criminal investigation
12 of terrorism of an individual identified as a possible match
13 in the Federal Terrorist Screening Database or similar
14 database; or

15 (3) otherwise required by Federal or State law,
16 including student and exchange visitor visa sponsorship
17 requirements for public institutions of higher education or
18 in compliance with a judicial warrant or court order issued
19 by a judge or magistrate of the Federal judicial branch or a
20 court.

21 (b) Enforcement.--

22 (1) The Attorney General may bring an action against an
23 individual or entity that violates this section.

24 (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit
25 the Attorney General to assert a claim against a public
26 agency, a State officer or State employee in the officer's or
27 employee's official capacity, regarding actions or omissions
28 of the public agency, State officer or State employee.

29 (3) If the Attorney General determines that a State
30 officer or State employee is not entitled to indemnification,

1 the Attorney General may, as it relates to the officer or
2 employee, take action authorized under this section.
3 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.