



Acts Affecting County Government 2019

The following is a list of acts and vetoes affecting county government that passed in 2019. Included are the bill number and printer's number (bill version) and the date the act was signed into law. Copies of each act are available from the Legislature's website by clicking on the link.

[ACT 14](#) (HB 856, P.N. 1333; June 28, 2019) – Amends Title 67 (Public Welfare) to reinstate permanent legal custodian and adoption assistance subsidies to children from 18 to 21 years of age, retroactive to July 18, 2018; this language had previously been included in Act 80 of 2012 but was struck down by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in July 2018.

[ACT 15](#) (HB 1461, P.N. 2267; June 28, 2019) – Omnibus amendments to the Administrative Code in conjunction with the FY 2019-2020 state budget. Among other provisions, requires the Governor to provide a written statement of need when requesting a supplemental appropriation.

[ACT 17](#) (SB 127, P.N. 961; June 28, 2019) – Amends Title 25 (Health and Safety) to reauthorize the state's 911 statute through Jan. 31, 2024, and adds the State Fire Commissioner and the chair of the State Geospatial Coordinating Board as voting members of the 911 Board. Further requires counties to make reasonable efforts to ensure GIS information is available to support NextGen 911 delivery, and permits PEMA to use discretionary funds under the law to purchase a statewide system to allow individuals to have their disabilities associated with a phone number to be accessible to a 911 operator.

[ACT 19](#) (SB 695; P.N. 1084; June 28, 2019) – Omnibus amendments to the Human Services Code in conjunction with the FY 2019-2020 state budget. Among other provisions, delays the implementation of the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) brokerage model, required under Act 40 of 2018, for 180 days so the Departments of Human Services, Aging and Transportation can complete an analysis of potential impact. Further extends the authority for the nursing facility assessment imposed on county and nonpublic nursing homes through June 30, 2022.

[ACT 20](#) (SB 712, P.N. 1085; June 28, 2019) – Omnibus amendments to the Fiscal Code providing for implementation of the FY 2019-2020 state budget. Among other provisions, provides for a nearly \$300 million transfer to the state's Rainy Day Fund, as well as a \$10 million transfer from the Recycling Fund to the General Fund. Further provides funding for a broadband expansion pilot program and to expand cost-effective broadband services to underserved, rural areas.

[ACT 33](#) (HB 370, P.N. 360; July 1, 2019) – Amends the Agricultural Area Security Law to allow the voluntary relinquishment of the right to construct a residence on an agricultural conservation easement and to allow for subdivision for the purpose of a residence.

[ACT 35](#) (HB 1516, P.N. 2124; July 1, 2019) – Amends Title 3 (Agriculture) to establish the Agriculture Rapid Response Disaster Readiness Account to allocate funds for rapid response to control disasters affecting agriculture, including funding for research to control or mitigate invasive species such as the spotted lanternfly, as well as training programs to prepare for or respond to a threat to agriculture.

[ACT 39](#) (SB 634, P.N. 1035; July 1, 2019) – Amends Title 3 (Agriculture) to establish the Conservation Excellence Grant program, which will provide technical and financial assistance for agricultural operations to implement conservation best management practices in high priority locations.

[ACT 47](#) (HB 235, P.N. 2265; July 2, 2019) – Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to clarify that consent to an adoption may be acknowledged before a notary public in lieu of two witnesses, and that the consent of an incarcerated parent of an adoptee may be witnessed by a correctional facility employee designated by that facility.

[ACT 67](#) (SB 621, P.N. 1081; July 2, 2019) – Amends the Public School Code to clarify provisions related to school security personnel. Clarifies that active certified sheriffs and deputy sheriffs may serve as school resource officers if they have completed a basic course of instruction, pursuant to a written agreement between the county, sheriff's office and the school entity.

[ACT 77](#) (SB 421, P.N. 1330; Oct. 31, 2019) – Amends the Pennsylvania Election Code to make omnibus changes to elections requirements, procedures and dates. Eliminates straight party voting and authorizes \$90 million in bonds for reimbursing counties for the purchase of voting machines. Changes the voter registration deadline to 15 days before an election, requires counties to pay poll workers' an additional amount, and moves the deadline for delivery of absentee ballots to 8 p.m. on election day while providing for a central count of absentee ballots. Additionally, it creates a new mail-in voting option, moves the date to begin canvassing ballots up to the Friday after the election, and allows counties to begin canvassing on election night.

[ACT 79](#) (HB 407, P.N. 878; Nov. 7, 2019) – Amends Title 1 (General Provisions) to establish a uniform definition of "blight" which will apply whenever the term is used in a current or future statute, unless clearly stated otherwise.

[ACT 80](#) (HB 510, P.N. 885; Nov. 7, 2019) – Amends Title 53 (Municipalities), to give all municipalities the option to use resolutions instead of ordinances when entering into an intergovernmental agreement.

[ACT 83](#) (HB 859, P.N. 2766; Nov. 7, 2019) – Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to add additional reporting requirements related to the integrated 911 emergency communications program and establishes the Nonprofit Security Grant Fund program.

[ACT 87](#) (HB 962, P.N. 2938; Nov. 26, 2019) – Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) to extend the statute of limitations for solicitation offenses by five years. Further provides that sovereign and governmental immunity shall not apply with respect to these offenses if the conduct of the entity that caused injury to the plaintiff constitutes gross negligence.

[ACT 88](#) (HB 1051, P.N. 1457; Nov. 26, 2019) – Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to provide for penalties for failure to report suspected child abuse by mandated reporters by increasing the offense from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree.

[ACT 91](#) (HB 49, P.N. 2925, Nov. 27, 2019) – Amends the Public School Code to clarify school security powers. Further defines training requirements and granted powers for school police officers, school resource officers and school security guards.

[ACT 94](#) (HB 227, P.N. 2925, Nov. 27, 2019) – Amends the Pennsylvania Election Code to require 10 signers for nomination petitions of candidates for school director at primaries. Eliminates the requirement that paper ballots used in optical scan voting systems must include numbered, detachable stubs and requires that county board of elections using paper optical scan voting systems provide each election district with supplies necessary to ensure that voters may insert their ballots into the automatic tabulating equipment in secret.

[ACT 108](#) (SB 314, P.N. 292, Nov. 27, 2019) – Establishes the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Authority (RHRCA) and the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Fund to protect and promote rural hospitals and health care centers that face special challenges, including inconsistencies in billing and reimbursements.

[ACT 114](#) (SB 500, P.N. 1433); December 18, 2019) – Amends the Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law, for Justice Reinvestment Initiatives phase 2, to create a County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee to advise the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency on funding, standards and training for county adult probation and parole departments.

[ACT 115](#) (SB 501, P.N. 1434); December 18, 2019) – Amends the Titles 42 (Judiciary) and 61 (Prisons and Parole) to streamline the process for placement in the county intermediate punishment program, which provides community alternatives for non-violent offenders by diverting these offenders from jail and incorporating drug and alcohol treatment to assist in changing behaviors. Updates the current sentencing process to a simpler placement similar to the Department of Corrections motivational boot camp.

Appropriations Bills

[ACT 1A](#) (HB 790, P.N. 2215; June 28, 2019) – The Commonwealth general fund appropriation act for FY 2019-2020.

Vetoed Bills

[SB 48](#) (P.N. 1080, Veto 3; July 5, 2019) – Created a process for decertification of voting machines by the Department of State, and provided for a \$90 million bond issuance to fund 60% of the costs of counties' voting equipment. Further provided for changes to dates for application, mailing and receipt of absentee ballots; required counties to keep a log of absentee ballots; and reduced the number of ballots counties would be required to print.