



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. 21, 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.

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.