

Acts Affecting County Government 2025

The following is a list of acts and vetoes affecting county government that **passed in 2025**. 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 5 (HB 355, P.N. 1596, June 27, 2025): Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, related to offenses involving minors. The bill introduces a new sentencing enhancement for cases of corruption of minors when the offender is a mandated reported, such as someone who is legally required to report suspected child abuse. Under this provision, the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing is directed to develop guidelines allowing courts to consider severe penalties in such cases.

In addition, the bill broadens the definition of unlawful contact with a minor. It clarifies that a person who commits this offense if they intentionally communicate with a minor, or with a law enforcement officer posing as a minor, for the purpose of engaging in certain prohibited activities. The list of activities now includes human trafficking involving sexual servitude of a minor, sexual offenses, incest, endangering the welfare of children involving sexual contact, open lewdness, prostitution, dissemination of obscene materials, corruption of minors involving sexual contact, sexual abuse of children, sexual exploitation of children, and attempts or conspiracies to commit any of these acts

Act 14 (HB 640, P.N. 2052, June 30, 2025): Amends the Administrative Code of 1929 to extend several healthcare-related assessments and make administrative updates across state departments. The bill codifies the continuation of assessments for managed care organizations, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, hospitals, nursing facilities, and the statewide quality care programs. These assessments, previously authorized under the Human Services Code, will remain in effect as long as permitted under federal law. The Department of Human Services is required to issue public notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin upon the expiration of each assessment. Notably, the bill sets the fixed fee for the Managed Care Organization Assessment at \$30.47 beginning July 1, 2025. To reflect these updates, the bill repeals corresponding outdated provisions from the Fiscal Code.

Additionally, the bill makes changes to the powers and duties of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. It implements the state plan and outlines specific annual reporting requirements to the General Assembly, including data on services provided, expenditures, program evaluations, and outcomes.

<u>Act 18</u> (SB 89, P.N. 945, June 30, 2025): Amends the Overdose Mapping Act of 2022 to expand requirements of reporting overdoses in Pennsylvania. The bill adds emergency medical services

(EMS) providers to the list of "authorized users" who must report known or suspected overdoses. It allows EMS providers to report overdose information not only to the Overdose Information Network, but also to other approved platforms, including their standard patient care reporting systems. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is directed to coordinate with the Pennsylvania State Police to ensure timely data transfer between platforms and to identify reports of the same overdose incident submitted by multiple users.

Act 31 (HB 799, P.N. 2027, July 7, 2025): Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statues, in requiring certain employers to display information in the workplace about veterans' benefits and services. The bill requires the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry to create a standardized workplace posting that includes contact information for state and federal veterans' services, including the Veterans Affairs Crisis Line and county veterans affairs offices. Employers with more than 50 full-time employees (defined as individuals working at least 40 hours a week) would be required to place this poster in a visible location accessible to employees. Employers also have the option of posting it on their internal employee website.

Act 34 (SB 95, P.N. 1019, July 7, 2025) Amends the Pennsylvania's Pharmacy Act by adding new definitions, adjusting pharmacist licensing rules, allowing certain emergency medical services (EMS) personnel to distribute medication packages for opioid overdose reversal under specific conditions, and creating new requirements for price disclosure at pharmacies. The law adds new definitions for emergency medical services (EMS) providers and "dose packages," which are sealed packets of naloxone or comparable treatments. Under certain conditions and a standing order from the Department of Health, EMS providers may voluntarily distribute a single dose package to a family member, friend, or another person in a position to help an individual who experienced an opioid overdose.

Act 38 (SB 475, P.N. 430, July 21, 2025): Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to update language and procedures related to "problem-solving courts," renaming them as "treatment courts." These courts, such as drug courts, mental health courts, DUI courts, and veterans courts, offer defendants court-supervised treatment programs. The bill allows courts of common pleas and the Philadelphia Municipal Court to establish and manage these treatment courts using available funds and to adopt local rules for their administration, provided those rules do not conflict with state or Supreme Court guidelines.

For veterans, the bill permits counties to collaborate and establish multi-county veterans courts or to create a veterans track within an existing treatment court if resources do not allow for a full veterans court.