

Acts Affecting County Government 2024

The following is a list of acts and vetoes affecting county government that <u>passed in 2024</u>. 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.

<u>ACT 4</u> (HB 1564, P.N. 2568; March 28, 2024)- Amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapist and Professional Counselors Act, creating a Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (LAMFT) credential for the commonwealth to add crucial resources for mental health care providers. This amendment expands the pool of qualified mental health care providers, consequently enhancing the accessibility of mental health services.

<u>ACT 8</u> (SB 55, P.N. 1169; April 15, 2024) - Amends Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), enhancing the criteria judges must consider for custody and visitation decisions, prioritizing child protection and mandates safety measures in custody order if there's a history or ongoing risk of abuse. Additionally, establishes annual training for judges and court staff on child abuse, adverse childhood experiences, and domestic violence.

<u>ACT 12</u> (HB 917, P.N. 2874; May 8, 2024) - Amends the Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), adopting the Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act that provides families with a voluntary and private process for resolving disputes instead of going to court.

<u>ACT 14</u> (SB 945, P.N. 1111; May 8, 2024) - Amends Title 16 (Counties), consolidating the freestanding County Code into Title 16 of the Consolidated Statutes. The bill provides several modifications to conform to case law developments, removes obsolete provision and incorporates other minor substantive changes.