

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 983 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY C. WILLIAMS, MARCELL, CUTLER, SHAFFER AND BONNER,  
MARCH 20, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 20, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous  
3 articles, further providing for persons not to possess, use,  
4 manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms and for sale  
5 or transfer of firearms and providing for Gun Violence Task  
6 Force in cities of the first class.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Sections 6105(d.1)(3) and 6111(d.1)(3) of Title  
10 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to  
11 read:

12 § 6105. Persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell  
13 or transfer firearms.

14 \* \* \*

15 (d.1) Concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute.--The following  
16 apply in a city of the first class where the Attorney General  
17 has operated a joint local-State firearm task force:

18 \* \* \*

19 (3) This subsection shall not apply to any case  
20 instituted [two years after the effective date of this

1 subsection.]:

2 (i) after September 2, 2021, and before the  
3 effective date of this subparagraph; or

4 (ii) after December 31, 2026.

5 \* \* \*

6 § 6111. Sale or transfer of firearms.

7 \* \* \*

8 (d.1) Concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute.--The following  
9 apply in a city of the first class where the Attorney General  
10 has operated a joint local-State firearm task force:

11 \* \* \*

12 (3) This subsection shall not apply to any case  
13 instituted [two years after the effective date of this  
14 subsection.]:

15 (i) after September 2, 2021, and before the  
16 effective date of this subparagraph; or

17 (ii) after December 31, 2026.

18 \* \* \*

19 Section 2. Title 18 is amended by adding a section to read:

20 § 6129. Gun Violence Task Force in cities of the first class.

21 (a) Establishment.--

22 (1) A joint local-State firearm task force is  
23 established in each city of the first class, which shall be  
24 known as the Gun Violence Task Force.

25 (2) The Gun Violence Task Force shall be under the  
26 authority of the Attorney General.

27 (b) Powers and duties.--

28 (1) The Gun Violence Task Force shall investigate and  
29 prosecute violations of sections 6105 (relating to persons  
30 not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or transfer

1 firearms) and 6111 (relating to sale or transfer of  
2 firearms), and similar offenses under Federal law, in a city  
3 of the first class.

4 (2) The Gun Violence Task Force shall initiate  
5 prosecutions only in a Federal or State court located in a  
6 city of the first class.

7 (3) The Gun Violence Task Force may utilize  
8 investigatory teams under subsection (e).

9 (c) Composition.--

10 (1) The Gun Violence Task Force shall include, at a  
11 minimum:

12 (i) The Attorney General or deputy attorneys  
13 general.

14 (ii) Members of the office of the district attorney  
15 in a city of the first class.

16 (iii) Law enforcement officers of the Attorney  
17 General.

18 (iv) Law enforcement officers of a city of the first  
19 class.

20 (v) Law enforcement officers of the Pennsylvania  
21 State Police.

22 (2) The Gun Violence Task Force may include, as  
23 determined by the Attorney General:

24 (i) Federal law enforcement officers.

25 (ii) Other Commonwealth law enforcement officers  
26 located in a city of the first class.

27 (iii) Other local law enforcement officers located  
28 in a city of the first class.

29 (iv) Campus police officers located in a city of the  
30 first class.

1           (v) Transit agency police officers located in a city  
2           of the first class.

3           (d) Funding.--The Gun Violence Task Force shall be funded  
4 from annual General Fund appropriations to a joint local-State  
5 firearm task force in a city of the first class. Funding shall  
6 be under the control of the Attorney General.

7           (e) Investigatory teams.--The Attorney General may empanel  
8 individualized investigatory teams that work in conjunction with  
9 and under the purview of the Gun Violence Task Force.

10          (f) Notice.--Each law enforcement agency that is a member of  
11 the Gun Violence Task Force shall notify the Gun Violence Task  
12 Force of any arrest or other criminal action or proceeding  
13 involving an alleged violation of section 6105 or 6111 within 48  
14 hours of the arrest or of instituting the action or proceeding.

15          (g) Preemptive jurisdiction over certain offenses.--

16           (1) The Attorney General may assert preemptive  
17 prosecutorial jurisdiction over any criminal actions or  
18 proceedings, including proceedings for the forfeiture or  
19 condemnation of property under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58 (relating to  
20 forfeiture of assets), for which the Attorney General has  
21 jurisdiction under section 6105 or 6111.

22           (2) Any assertion of preemptive prosecutorial  
23 jurisdiction under this subsection shall be within the sole  
24 discretion of the Attorney General, who shall consider the  
25 totality of the circumstances in deciding whether to assert  
26 that jurisdiction, including:

27           (i) Whether the alleged violation of section 6105 or  
28 6111 is the lead charge and the severity of any other  
29 offense charged in conjunction with the alleged violation  
30 of section 6105 or 6111.

1           (ii) The criminal history record information of the  
2 alleged offender, including whether the offender was  
3 previously convicted of an offense under this chapter.

4           (iii) Whether the Gun Violence Task Force was  
5 involved in the investigation of the alleged violation of  
6 section 6105 or 6111.

7           (iv) Whether the Gun Violence Task Force has  
8 sufficient resources to prosecute the alleged offender.

9           (v) Whether the alleged offender utilized a firearm  
10 during the commission of a felony.

11           (vi) Whether the alleged offender is involved or  
12 associated with the sale, manufacture, distribution or  
13 delivery of any controlled substance or counterfeit  
14 controlled substance in violation of the act of April 14,  
15 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled Substance,  
16 Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

17           (vii) The impact of the alleged offense on the  
18 victim or the community.

19           (viii) Whether the alleged offender's commission of  
20 the offense violated the terms and conditions of a  
21 sentence or bail bond.

22           (ix) Any other relevant or aggravating circumstances  
23 that would tend to support the assertion of preemptive  
24 prosecutorial jurisdiction.

25           (3) The Attorney General may not assert preemptive  
26 prosecutorial discretion under this subsection if the  
27 offender unlawfully possessed a firearm during the commission  
28 of murder of the first degree or second degree or a crime of  
29 violence, as that term is defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9714(g)  
30 (relating to sentences for second and subsequent offenses),

1 unless upon written request by the Police Commissioner of a  
2 city of the first class.

3 (4) Subject to paragraph (5), in cases in which the  
4 Attorney General asserts preemptive prosecutorial  
5 jurisdiction under this subsection, no other prosecuting  
6 entity for the Commonwealth shall have authority to act,  
7 except as authorized by the Attorney General. No person shall  
8 have standing to challenge the authority of the Attorney  
9 General to prosecute the cases, and, if any challenge is  
10 made, the challenge shall be dismissed and no relief shall be  
11 available in the courts of this Commonwealth to the entity  
12 making the challenge.

13 (5) The Attorney General may not assert preemptive  
14 prosecutorial jurisdiction under this subsection in a case  
15 where jurisdiction also exists in a county other than a  
16 county of the first class unless the Attorney General  
17 requests in writing to the district attorney in the county  
18 other than the county of the first class to assert preemptive  
19 prosecutorial jurisdiction and the district attorney in the  
20 county other than the county of the first class accepts the  
21 request in writing.

22 (6) Any grant of jurisdiction to the Attorney General  
23 under section 6105 or 6111 shall be exclusive to the Gun  
24 Violence Task Force.

25 (7) The provisions of this subsection shall expire  
26 December 31, 2026.

27 (h) Annual reports.--

28 (1) By October 1 of each year, the Attorney General  
29 shall make an annual report on the operation of the Gun  
30 Violence Task Force to:

1           (i) The Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

2           (ii) The Appropriations Committee of the House of  
3 Representatives.

4           (iii) The Judiciary Committee of the Senate.

5           (iv) The Judiciary Committee of the House of  
6 Representatives.

7           (2) Each report under this subsection shall contain the  
8 following information for the previous fiscal year regarding  
9 the Gun Violence Task Force:

10           (i) The number of members, per agency, serving on  
11 the Gun Violence Task Force.

12           (ii) The total number of arrests in a city of the  
13 first class for alleged violations of section 6105 or  
14 6111, including separately the total number of arrests by  
15 the Gun Violence Task Force.

16           (iii) The total number of bills of information filed  
17 for alleged violations of section 6105 or 6111, including  
18 separately the total number of bills filed by the Gun  
19 Violence Task Force.

20           (iv) The total number of convictions resulting from  
21 prosecutions under subparagraph (iii), including  
22 separately the total number of convictions resulting from  
23 prosecutions by the Gun Violence Task Force.

24           (v) The sentences imposed for each conviction under  
25 subparagraph (iv), including separately the sentences  
26 imposed for each conviction resulting from a prosecution  
27 by the Gun Violence Task Force.

28           (vi) The number of firearms seized by the Gun  
29 Violence Task Force.

30           (vii) A summary of expenditures, including any money

1           appropriated for the Gun Violence Task Force in a  
2           previous year that is carried over or unspent.

3       Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

4           (1) The addition of 18 Pa.C.S. § 6129 shall take effect  
5       in 90 days.

6           (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect  
7       immediately.