
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. **655** Session of
1961

INTRODUCED BY MR. SEYLER, MAY 22, 1961.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT,
MAY 22, 1961.

AN ACT

Amending the act of April 9 1929 (P L 177) entitled "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the Executive Department thereof and the administrative departments boards commissions and officers thereof including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools or Teachers Colleges abolishing creating reorganizing or authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative department boards and commissions defining the powers and

EXPLANATION—CAPITAL LETTERS indicate new matter added to bill. Matter stricken through is to be omitted from bill. Underscoring indicates new matter added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative officers and of the several administrative departments boards commissions and officers fixing the salaries of the Governor Lieutenant Governor and certain other executive and administrative officers providing for the appointment of certain administrative officers and of all deputies and other assistants and employes in certain departments boards and commissions and prescribing the manner in which the number and compensation of the deputies and all other assistants and employes of certain departments boards and commissions shall be determined" creating the Bureau of Consumer Protection defining its powers and duties and making an appropriation

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows

1 Section 1 Article IX act of April 9 1929 (P L 177) known as "The
2 Administrative Code of 1929" is amended by adding at the end thereof
3 five new sections to read

4 Section 917 Bureau of Consumer Protection The Department
5 of Justice shall establish a Bureau of Consumer Protection under the
6 direction of a Consumer's Counsel appointed by the Attorney General

1 Section 918 Bureau of Consumer Protection The Bureau of Con-
2 sumer Protection shall have the power and its duties shall be

3 (1) To present and represent the viewpoint of the consuming public
4 in matters before any executive legislative or judicial body office com-
5 mission or agency of the State or Federal government including but not
6 limited to any proceedings seeking a change of rates or services or costs
7 of services or commodities and it shall be deemed an aggrieved party for
8 the purpose of judicial or administrative review of any decision or ruling
9 in any proceedings in which it has so appeared

10 (2) To investigate commercial and trade practices in the production
11 distribution and furnishing of goods and services to or for the use of
12 consumers in order to determine if such practices are detrimental to the
13 public interest

14 (3) To investigate and prosecute fraud and misrepresentation in the
15 sale and servicing of consumer goods and products

16 (4) To prosecute such violations of laws or regulations affecting
17 consumers as its investigations or studies may reveal and to recommend
18 action by other law enforcement agencies

1 (5) To foster the creation and activities of independent consumer
2 organizations to promote consumer education and to cooperate with
3 existing consumer representatives

4 (6) To conduct studies investigations and research in all matters
5 affecting consumer interests advise the executive and legislative branches
6 on matters affecting consumer interests assist in developing executive
7 policies and legislative programs to protect the consumer secure all avail-
8 able information on utility rates interest rates insurance rates and costs
9 of commodities and services and make such information available to the
10 various agencies of government and to the public

11 (7) To do such other acts as may be incidental to the exercise of its
12 powers and functions

13 Section 919 Appointment of Personnel The Attorney General shall
14 appoint and fix the compensation of such investigators accountants engi-
15 neers attorneys clerical and stenographic employes and such other pro-
16 fessional and skilled personnel as may be required for the proper conduct
17 of the work of the bureau

18 Section 920 Relationship to Other Agencies The duties and func-
19 tions of the Bureau of Consumer Protection shall not be in substitution
20 for the obligation of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or the

1 Milk Control Commission or other agencies having a duty to safeguard
2 the consumer but shall be carried out independently thereof Each agency
3 officer and employe of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the bureau
4 in carrying out its functions

5 Section 921 Advisory Committees The Governor by executive order
6 may create such advisory committees as he deems necessary to assist the
7 Bureau of Consumer Protection in carrying out its functions The Gov-
8 ernor shall appoint the members of such committees and they shall serve
9 at his pleasure The committees shall be under the direction of the Con-
10 sumer's Counsel and their recommendations shall not be binding on the
11 bureau Members of the committees shall serve without compensation
12 other than reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred
13 in the performance of their duties

14 Section 2 The sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) is
15 hereby appropriated for the purpose of administering this act

16 Section 3 This act shall take effect immediately

757—Printer's No. 6

We certify that this bill has passed the Senate and the House of
Representatives.

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Chief Clerk, Senate

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President pro tempore, Senate

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Speaker, House of Representatives

Approved The day of A. D. 1961.

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Governor