

# Bill Summary

<b><u>COMMITTEE:</u></b>	Banking and Insurance	<b><u>DATE:</u></b>	9/23/14
<b><u>PRIME SPONSOR:</u></b>	Alloway	<b><u>BILL NO:</u></b>	SB 1441
<b><u>PREPARED BY:</u></b>	Carlton Logue	<b><u>PRINTER'S NO:</u></b>	2174

## A. Synopsis:

Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to provide further regulation of the bail bondsman industry in Pennsylvania

## B. Summary:

Two types of bail bondsmen currently operate in Pennsylvania, “professional” or “property” bondsmen and “surety” bondsmen. Professional bondsmen issue bonds using their own assets as collateral. Surety bondsmen, however, are licensed insurance producers that issue bonds on behalf of a licensed surety company. These two entities are currently licensed separately.

SB 1441 would streamline and modernize the licensing of bail bondsmen by discontinuing separate licensure for professional and surety bondsmen. The bill requires every bondsman to be licensed as an insurance producer with a casualty line of authority and to issue bonds only under a power of authority granted by a qualified insurance company that has satisfied the minimum capital and surplus requirement necessary for licensure. Licensure will also require all bail bondsmen to pass an approved 24 credit hour pre-examination course; be subjected to fingerprinting by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department; pass a licensing examination; complete 24 credit hours of continuing education for each two-year license period; adhere to Pennsylvania Insurance Department approved premium rates; and requires bondsmen to maintain an office in the Commonwealth to provide consumer protection.

This bill strengthens the tools and resources of county officials to enforce and collect unpaid bail forfeitures. It also permits law enforcement personnel to assist bail bondsmen in fugitive recovery provided it is done on their own time, they are separately compensated, and they are neither “in uniform” nor show their badge when engaging in this activity.

Effective Date: 90 days