

## **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ANALYSIS**

**Bill:** Senate Bill 128

**Printer's No.:** 83

**Amendment No.:** A01315

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**Summary:** Instead of a free-standing act, amendment A01315 makes the bill an amendment to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law, 1978 Act 274, and gives statutory authorization to the PCCD's existing Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC) and Mental Health and Justice Grant Program.

The chairman of the MHJAC will be a member of the PCCD and his term as a member of the PCCD shall be concurrent with his service as chairman of the MHJAC.

The members of the MHJAC shall be appointed by the Governor and shall include representatives of the Department of Corrections, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Office of Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Services of the Department of Public Welfare, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, units of local government, public and private agencies which provide or advocate for mental health treatment and services, agencies which provide housing for the mentally ill, victim services agencies, drug and alcohol treatment providers, police, district attorneys, county adult and juvenile probation officers, county wardens and any other individuals with expertise in public safety response and management, treatment or provision of services to individuals with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice or criminal justice system.

Members shall serve four-year terms and may be appointed to one additional consecutive term. The MHJAC shall consist of no more than 33 members. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The Governor shall appoint a chairman and a vice chairman shall be designated by the chairman and preside at meetings in the absence of the chairman. The MHJAC shall meet at least four times a year.

The MHJAC shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To advise the PCCD in the development of that part of the PCCD's comprehensive plan relating to the provision of treatment and services to individuals with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

(2) To serve the PCCD in an advisory capacity relating to the direct approval and disbursement of financial assistance.

(3) To advise the PCCD on the definition, development and correlation of programs and projects and the establishment of priorities for the provision of treatment and services to individuals with mental illness involved in the juvenile justice and criminal justice systems.

(4) Upon request, to provide assistance and advice to the PCCD on any other related matters.

The Department of Public Welfare and the Department of Corrections are directed to cooperate with the PCCD in providing resources to the PCCD in support of the MHJAC. The PCCD executive director shall make staff support available for the MHJAC.

The amendment also provides statutory authorization for the Mental Health and Justice Grant Program. The PCCD shall award grants to assist in planning, implementing and expanding initiatives that increase public safety, avert increased spending on criminal justice and improve the effectiveness of treatment services for individuals with mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who are involved or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system.

The PCCD shall base the number of grants on the amount of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and any other funds available for the purposes of this act.

This act takes effect in 90 days.

Because the current activities of the PCCD overlap with the provisions proposed in the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Reinvestment Act, this amendment gives statutory authorization to those activities instead of creating a parallel advisory committee and grant program.