



Acts Affecting County Government 2023

The following is a list of acts and vetoes affecting county government that [passed in 2023](#). 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.

[ACT 15](#) (HB 1351, P.N. 2159; October 23, 2023)- Omnibus amendments to the Human Services Code providing for implementation of provisions contained in the FY 2023-2024 state budget. Among other provisions, codifies the Rural Health Redesign Center Authority (RHRCA) into the Human Services Code and also increases EMS transportation rates by requiring the Department of Human Services to pay for all loaded miles, and requiring the Department to reimburse EMS providers at the greater of Medicare or Medicaid rates for ambulance services. Further requires the case-mix rate on which each nursing home's funding is based to use the same information to determine those rates in FY 2023-2024 as in FY 2022-2023. Additionally reauthorizes the state's hospital assessment, which triggers matching federal funding.

[ACT 18](#) (SB 746, P.N. 915; October 23, 2023)- Amends the Pennsylvania Dog Law, requiring the Department of Agriculture to develop a statewide online platform for dog license sales to offer online sales options in all 67 counties. Further increases the cost of dog licenses by \$2 in 2025 and another \$1 in 2027 while also increasing the compensation to be collected by the issuing agency. Additionally adjusts cost of annual fees for kennels and establish new kennel standards.

[ACT 22](#) (SB 735, P.N. 2210; November 1, 2023)- Amends the Administrative Code, defining a surplus for state budget purposes, reauthorizing the collection of child support enforcement and judicial fees and establishing the Flood Insurance Premium Task Force. Specifically related to judicial surcharges and fees, reauthorizes the \$10 and \$11.25 judicial surcharges used for the operation of the judicial department and expands the \$11.25 fee to include summary traffic citations. Further suspends the \$15 million transfer from the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account to the School Safety and Security Fund for 2023-2024.

[ACT 33](#) (HB 301, P.N. 2311; December 13, 2023)- Omnibus amendments to the Public School Code providing for implementation of provisions contained in the FY 2023-2024 state budget. Among other provisions, allocates the \$100 million American Rescue Plan Act funding, initially provided in the general appropriations act, to schools for school mental health funding. Further outlines the distribution of the \$262 million appropriated in the FY 2023-2024 state budget for community colleges, as well as the \$70 million appropriated for public libraries and establishes the County Safe Schools' Collaborative to distribute, promote and develop best practices applicable to emergency response involving school safety and security through an emergency planning approach.

[ACT 34](#) (HB 1300, P.N. 2441; December 13, 2023)- Omnibus amendments to the Fiscal Code providing for implementation of provisions contained in the FY 2023-2024 state budget. Among other provisions, increases the 911 surcharge from \$1.65 to \$1.95 starting March 1, 2024, through January 31, 2026, and calls for a joint study to be conducted by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, Local Government Commission and Joint State Government Commission to assess system efficiencies, system costs, 988 interoperability and other provisions by the end of 2024. Further confirms the \$20 million increase in county mental health base funds for FY 2023-2024, increases the payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) for state forest and park lands from \$2.00 to \$2.40 per acre, per local government, and an increase for state game lands also increases from \$1.20 to \$2.40 per acre, per local government. Additionally, eliminates local match requirements for entities that receive funding through the MultiModal Transportation Program is extended until December 31, 2024, provides implementation language to drive out \$7.5 million in new funding for indigent defense, and extends qualifying entities as institutions of purely public charity to include domestic fraternal societies, orders or associations that operate under a lodge system, whose net earnings are devoted to religious, charitable, scientific, literary, education and fraternal purposes, who qualify as tax exempt under the IRS Code, who have been operating for at least 100 years and have not been issued a liquor license as qualifying institutions of purely public charity. Further permits up to \$165,000 in state agricultural conservation easement (farmland preservation) funds can be used for grants of up to \$5,000 for succession planning, to assure agricultural operations continue on preserved farmland.

[ACT 36](#) (HB 689, P.N. 2310; December 14, 2023)- Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), extending the Clean Slate record-sealing provisions to those with low-level, non-violent drug felonies. Additionally, permits petition-based sealing of a few other nonviolent felonies and reduces the waiting period for automated sealing of misdemeanors to seven years. Further clarifies only Pennsylvania State Police may disseminate criminal history record information and other criminal justice agencies may disseminate criminal history record information to any individual or noncriminal justice agency only as they deem necessary to carry out their law enforcement functions.

[ACT 44](#) (SB 838, P.N. 1289; December 14, 2023)- Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), providing for conditions of probation, the modification or revocation of orders of probation, and probation review conferences.

[ACT 47](#) (HB 900, P.N. 2406; December 14, 2023)- Amends Title 61 (Prisons and Parole), expanding reporting systems for restraints used on pregnant, laboring and postpartum individuals. Further requires only female staff to be present during the examination, labor, or delivery of a pregnant incarcerated person, unless otherwise necessary. Additionally, provides incarcerated individuals with free feminine hygiene and incontinence products at state and county correctional institutions.

[ACT 50](#) (HB 1131, P.N. 1186; December 14, 2023)- Amends the Department of Health Act, allowing for the closure of a State Health Center where there is a separate county health department.

[ACT 58](#) (SB 361, P.N. 1283; December 14, 2023)- Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), adding judges to the Court of common pleas in the following judicial districts (and counties): eighth (Northumberland), fifteenth (Chester) twentieth (Huntingdon), twenty-sixth (Montour), thirty-first (Lehigh), thirty-eighth (Montgomery), and fiftieth (Butler).

[ACT 60](#) (SB 429, P.N. 855; December 14, 2023)- Amends the Heart and Lung Act, expanding benefits to county corrections and probation officers of a participating county.

[ACT 66](#) (SB 941, P.N. 1287; December 14, 2023)- Amends the Administrative Code, requiring the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to submit an annual report on drug and alcohol abuse and dependence and barriers to workforce. Further codifies regulatory flexibility during an opioid epidemic for counselor experience and client/staff ratios.

Appropriation Bills

[ACT 1A](#) (HB 611, P.N. 1811; August 3, 2023)- The Commonwealth General Fund Appropriation Act for FY 2023-2024 provides funding for FY 2023-2024 at approximately \$45.5 billion in total for the year. Does not include any tax increases or across the board cuts. Contains a line item veto of \$100M for PASS Scholarships. A complete analysis of county impacts can be found on the CCAP Budget News [webpage](#).