

SHORT SUMMARY



General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
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Constables in Pennsylvania: Proposed Statutory Reforms, April 2014

House Resolution No. 138 of 2013 directed the Joint State Government Commission to study and make recommendations on the constable system in Pennsylvania. Commission staff gathered information from a number of resources, including individuals who work in executive and judicial roles. The objectives of the recommendations are to clarify the role or authority of constables, to provide oversight and accountability and to make constabulary practices more uniform throughout the Commonwealth.

Findings:

Some sections in the primary statute relating to constables are anachronistic and should be repealed. Other sections are dated and need to be updated. Still other sections should be amended or added to both modernize the law and address issues that have been left to common law.

Recommendations:

Monetary amounts throughout the statute should be updated. Unnecessary distinctions among different types of municipalities should be eliminated. Prohibited conflicts should be expanded. Warrantless arrest authority should be statutorily specified. Judicial removal authority should be expanded. More formalized oversight should be implemented, especially at the Commonwealth level.

The full report is available at: <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/>