

About the scorecard

The ACLU of Pennsylvania's interactive scorecard is designed to let you know how PA state legislators voted on civil rights and civil liberties issues during the 2023–2024 session. PA's General Assembly has two-year sessions, which means that bills introduced in the first year of session carry over to the second year.

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Bills we score

In order to better reflect the scope of our lobbying efforts (much of which happens early and at multiple stages throughout the legislative process), we score final floor votes in each chamber and also include key committee and amendment votes on priority bills. By the time a bill reaches the floor for a final vote, much of the deliberative work has already been done. Scoring these additional votes offers a more nuanced depiction of the decisions each legislator made throughout the process.

How scores are calculated

Each score is calculated as a percentage out of 100%.

Because not all legislation is considered in both chambers, the Senate and House will not have the same number of opportunities to vote on scored bills or amendments. The same is true for members of the same chamber who vote on scored bills in committee. These differences are factored into our final scorecard calculation.

The highest score in the House this session was **95%**.

The highest score in the Senate this session was **89%**.

2023–2024 BY THE NUMBERS

General Assembly

Days in session (H+S)	200
Bills filed (H+S)	4049
Bills enacted	217
Bills vetoed	1

ACLU-PA

Bills the ACLU-PA tracked	1048
ACLU-PA bill position memos	108
Capitol lobby days	8
Expert testimony delivered	4

2023-2024 ACLU-PA Top 5 Constitutional Champions

Thank you for **defending civil liberties & rights** for all Pennsylvanians.

PA HOUSE *



* Multiple champions in each ranking reflect tied or nearly-tied scores.

PA SENATE



Senator	Chamber	Party	Senate District	ACLU-PA Score % out of 100
Saval, Nikil	Senate	D	SD-001	89.2%
Muth, Katie	Senate	D	SD-044	74.5%
Williams, Lindsey	Senate	D	SD-038	73%
Cappelletti, Amanda	Senate	D	SD-017	72%
Kearney, Tim	Senate	D	SD-026	66.7%
Collett, Maria	Senate	D	SD-012	63.4%
Comitta, Carolyn	Senate	D	SD-019	61.8%
Williams, Tony	Senate	D	SD-008	61.7%
Street, Sharif	Senate	D	SD-003	61.1%
Haywood, Art	Senate	D	SD-004	61%
Hughes, Vincent	Senate	D	SD-007	60%
Santarsiero, Steve	Senate	D	SD-010	55%
Costa, Jay	Senate	D	SD-043	52.8%
Fontana, Wayne	Senate	D	SD-042	52.8%
Schwank, Judy	Senate	D	SD-011	48.6%
Tartaglione, Tina	Senate	D	SD-002	47.2%
Kane, John	Senate	D	SD-009	44.4%
Brewster, Jim	Senate	D	SD-045	40.5%
Flynn, Marty	Senate	D	SD-022	40.5%
Boscola, Lisa	Senate	D	SD-018	39.1%
Miller, Nick	Senate	D	SD-014	38.9%
Dillon, Jimmy	Senate	D	SD-005	37.8%
Coleman, Jarrett	Senate	R	SD-016	29.7%
Brooks, Michele	Senate	R	SD-050	27%
Langerholc, Wayne	Senate	R	SD-035	26.8%
Phillips-Hill, Kristin	Senate	R	SD-028	26.5%
Stefano, Pat	Senate	R	SD-032	26.5%
Rothman, Greg	Senate	R	SD-034	26.3%
Ward, Kim	Senate	R	SD-039	25.9%
Mastriano, Doug	Senate	R	SD-033	25.5%
Dush, Cris	Senate	R	SD-025	25.5%
Hutchinson, Scott	Senate	R	SD-021	25%
Martin, Scott	Senate	R	SD-013	25%
Schlegel-Culver, Lynda	Senate	R	SD-027	25%
Vogel, Elder	Senate	R	SD-047	25%
Argall, Dave	Senate	R	SD-029	25%
Ward, Judy	Senate	R	SD-030	25%
Baker, Lisa	Senate	R	SD-020	24.4%
Brown, Rosemary	Senate	R	SD-040	24.4%
DiSanto, John	Senate	R	SD-015	24.3%
Yaw, Gene	Senate	R	SD-023	23.1%
Aument, Ryan	Senate	R	SD-036	22.9%
Bartolotta, Camera	Senate	R	SD-046	22.5%
Regan, Mike	Senate	R	SD-031	22.5%
Gebhard, Chris	Senate	R	SD-048	22.2%
Laughlin, Dan	Senate	R	SD-049	22.2%
Pittman, Joe	Senate	R	SD-041	22.2%
Robinson, Devlin	Senate	R	SD-037	22.2%
Pennycuick, Tracy	Senate	R	SD-024	21.9%
Farry, Frank	Senate	R	SD-006	21.6%

Representative	Chamber	Party	House District	ACLU-PA Score % out of 100
Krajewski, Rick	House	D	HD-188	95.1%
Fiedler, Elizabeth	House	D	HD-184	95%
Powell, Lindsay	House	D	HD-021	93.8%
Rabb, Chris	House	D	HD-200	93.1%
Benham, Jessica	House	D	HD-036	92.5%
Mayes, La'Tasha	House	D	HD-024	91.4%
Kinkead, Emily	House	D	HD-020	90%
Abney, Aerion	House	D	HD-019	90%
Khan, Tarik	House	D	HD-194	90%
Waxman, Ben	House	D	HD-182	90%
Burgos, Danilo	House	D	HD-197	87.5%
Dawkins, Jason	House	D	HD-179	87.5%
Green, Roni	House	D	HD-190	87.5%
Kenyatta, Malcolm	House	D	HD-181	85.7%
Hohenstein, Joe	House	D	HD-177	85.2%
Miller, Dan	House	D	HD-042	85%
Salisbury, Abigail	House	D	HD-034	85%
Cephas, Morgan	House	D	HD-192	82.5%
Parker, Darisha	House	D	HD-198	82.5%
Curry, Gina	House	D	HD-164	81.8%
Kazeem, Carol	House	D	HD-159	80.5%
Otten, Danielle	House	D	HD-155	80%
Smith-Wade-El, Izzy	House	D	HD-049	80%
Vitali, Greg	House	D	HD-166	80%
Bellmon, Anthony	House	D	HD-203	79.5%
Young, Regina	House	D	HD-185	79.1%
Kinsey, Stephen	House	D	HD-201	78%
Prokopiak, Jim	House	D	HD-140	77.8%
Briggs, Tim	House	D	HD-149	77.6%
Boyd, Heather	House	D	HD-163	77.5%
Howard, Kristine	House	D	HD-167	77.4%
Sanchez, Ben	House	D	HD-153	77%
Bullock, Donna	House	D	HD-195	76.9%
Hanbidge, Liz	House	D	HD-061	76.3%
Donahue, Kyle	House	D	HD-113	75.9%

Representative	Chamber	Party	House District	ACLU-PA Score % out of 100
Pielli, Chris	House	D	HD-156	75.9%
Nelson, Napoleon	House	D	HD-154	75.6%
Shusterman, Melissa	House	D	HD-157	75%
Delloso, Dave	House	D	HD-162	75%
Giral, José	House	D	HD-180	75%
Hill-Evans, Carol	House	D	HD-095	75%
Isaacson, Mary	House	D	HD-175	75%
Samuelson, Steve	House	D	HD-135	75%
Scott, Greg	House	D	HD-054	75%
Kim, Patty	House	D	HD-103	74.4%
Webster, Joe	House	D	HD-150	74.4%
Warren, Perry	House	D	HD-031	73.8%
Williams, Dan	House	D	HD-074	73.6%
Fleming, Justin	House	D	HD-105	73.2%
Guenst, Nancy	House	D	HD-152	72.7%
Borowski, Lisa	House	D	HD-168	72.5%
Brown, Amen	House	D	HD-010	72.5%
Cepeda-Freytiz, Johanny	House	D	HD-129	72.5%
Daley, Mary Jo	House	D	HD-148	72.5%
Frankel, Dan	House	D	HD-023	72.5%
Freeman, Bob	House	D	HD-136	72.5%
Harris, Jordan	House	D	HD-186	72.5%
Madsen, Dave	House	D	HD-104	72.5%
McClinton, Joanna	House	D	HD-191	72.5%
Solomon, Jared	House	D	HD-202	72.5%
Steele, Mandy	House	D	HD-033	72.5%
Venkat, Arvind	House	D	HD-030	72.5%
Brennan, Tim	House	D	HD-029	72.1%
Conklin, Scott	House	D	HD-077	72.1%
Madden, Maureen	House	D	HD-115	72.1%
O'Mara, Jenn	House	D	HD-165	72.1%
Probst, Tarah	House	D	HD-189	72.1%
Siegel, Josh	House	D	HD-022	71.7%
Cerrato, Missy	House	D	HD-151	70.7%
Bizzarro, Ryan	House	D	HD-003	70%

Representative	Chamber	Party	House District	ACLU-PA Score % out of 100
Boyle, Kevin	House	D	HD-172	70%
Bradford, Matt	House	D	HD-070	70%
Ciresi, Joe	House	D	HD-146	70%
Davis, Tina	House	D	HD-141	70%
Deasy, Dan	House	D	HD-027	70%
Friel, Paul	House	D	HD-026	70%
Gallagher, Pat	House	D	HD-173	70%
Gergely, Matt	House	D	HD-035	70%
Guzman, Manny	House	D	HD-127	70%
Haddock, Jim	House	D	HD-118	70%
Harkins, Pat	House	D	HD-001	70%
Kosierowski, Bridget	House	D	HD-114	70%
Krueger, Leanne	House	D	HD-161	70%
Kulik, Anita	House	D	HD-045	70%
Malagari, Steve	House	D	HD-053	70%
Matzie, Rob	House	D	HD-016	70%
Merski, Bob	House	D	HD-002	70%
Munroe, Brian	House	D	HD-144	70%
Pashinski, Eddie	House	D	HD-121	70%
Sappey, Christina	House	D	HD-158	70%
Schlossberg, Mike	House	D	HD-132	70%
Schweyer, Pete	House	D	HD-134	70%
Sturla, Mike	House	D	HD-096	70%
Takac, Paul	House	D	HD-082	70%
McAndrew, Joe	House	D	HD-032	68.2%
Markosek, Brandon	House	D	HD-025	67.4%
McNeill, Jeanne	House	D	HD-133	67.4%
Mullins, Kyle	House	D	HD-112	67.4%
Neilson, Ed	House	D	HD-174	67.4%
Pisciottano, Nick	House	D	HD-038	67.4%
Rozzi, Mark	House	D	HD-126	67.4%
Galloway, John	House	D	HD-140	63.6%
Burns, Frank	House	D	HD-072	55%
Mehaffie, Tom	House	R	HD-106	47.5%
Mihalek, Natalie	House	R	HD-040	47.5%

Representative	Chamber	Party	House District	ACLU-PA Score % out of 100
Hogan, Joe	House	R	HD-142	46.3%
Kaufer, Aaron	House	R	HD-120	45%
Major, Abby	House	R	HD-060	45%
Mercuri, Rob	House	R	HD-028	45%
Ryncavage, Alec	House	R	HD-119	45%
Tomlinson, K.C.	House	R	HD-018	45%
Ortitay, Jason	House	R	HD-046	44.2%
Flick, Jamie	House	R	HD-083	43.9%
Grimm Krupa, Charity	House	R	HD-051	43.9%
Emrick, Joe	House	R	HD-137	43.6%
Dunbar, George	House	R	HD-056	42.5%
Jones, Mike	House	R	HD-093	42.5%
Marcell, Kristin	House	R	HD-178	42.5%
Marshall, Jim	House	R	HD-014	42.5%
Williams, Craig	House	R	HD-160	42.5%
Bonner, Tim	House	R	HD-017	41.4%
Delozier, Sheryl	House	R	HD-088	40%
Flood, Ann	House	R	HD-138	40%
Gaydos, Valerie	House	R	HD-044	40%
Mackenzie, Ryan	House	R	HD-187	40%
Mako, Zach	House	R	HD-183	40%
White, Martina	House	R	HD-170	40%
Cabell, Mike	House	R	HD-117	39.5%
Labs, Shelby	House	R	HD-143	39.5%
Klunk, Kate	House	R	HD-169	39.3%
Kutz, Thomas	House	R	HD-087	39%
Mackenzie, Milou	House	R	HD-131	39%
Schemel, Paul	House	R	HD-090	37.9%
Cooper, Jill	House	R	HD-055	37.5%
Cutler, Bryan	House	R	HD-100	37.5%
Fritz, Jonathan	House	R	HD-111	37.5%
Kuzma, Andrew	House	R	HD-039	37.5%
Mustello, Marci	House	R	HD-011	37.5%
Nelson, Eric	House	R	HD-057	37.5%
Pickett, Tina	House	R	HD-110	37.5%

Representative	Chamber	Party	House District	ACLU-PA Score % out of 100
Wentling, Parke	House	R	HD-007	37.5%
Keefer, Dawn	House	R	HD-092	37.2%
Scheuren, Donna	House	R	HD-147	37.2%
Staats, Craig	House	R	HD-145	37.2%
Lawrence, John	House	R	HD-013	36.8%
Schlegel, John	House	R	HD-101	36.6%
Adams, Joseph	House	R	HD-139	36.4%
Fink, Wendy	House	R	HD-094	36.4%
Ecker, Torren	House	R	HD-193	36.2%
Hamm, Joe	House	R	HD-084	36.2%
Stender, Michael	House	R	HD-108	35.9%
Irvin, Rich	House	R	HD-081	35%
Moul, Dan	House	R	HD-091	35%
Rader, Jack	House	R	HD-176	35%
Barton, Jamie	House	R	HD-124	34.9%
Miller, Brett	House	R	HD-041	34.9%
Stambaugh, Perry	House	R	HD-086	34.9%
Struzzi, Jim	House	R	HD-062	34.9%
Schmitt, Lou	House	R	HD-079	34.8%
Kauffman, Rob	House	R	HD-089	34.5%
Rigby, Jim	House	R	HD-071	34.5%
Rowe, David	House	R	HD-085	34.5%
Owlett, Clint	House	R	HD-068	32.8%
Smith, Brian	House	R	HD-066	32.6%
Davanzo, Eric	House	R	HD-058	32.6%
Armanini, Mike	House	R	HD-075	32.5%
Diamond, Russ	House	R	HD-102	32.5%
Heffley, Doyle	House	R	HD-122	32.5%
Kephart, Dallas	House	R	HD-073	32.5%
Metzgar, Carl	House	R	HD-069	32.5%
Rapp, Kathy	House	R	HD-065	32.5%
Topper, Jesse	House	R	HD-078	32.5%
Kail, Josh	House	R	HD-015	32.4%
Jozwiak, Barry	House	R	HD-005	31.7%
Rossi, Leslie	House	R	HD-059	31.7%

Representative	Chamber	Party	House District	ACLU-PA Score % out of 100
Roae, Brad	House	R	HD-006	30.2%
Warner, Ryan	House	R	HD-052	30.2%
Bernstine, Aaron	House	R	HD-008	30%
Causer, Marty	House	R	HD-067	30%
Cook, Bud	House	R	HD-050	30%
D'Orsie, Joe	House	R	HD-047	30%
Fee, Mindy	House	R	HD-037	30%
Gallo Brown, Marla	House	R	HD-009	30%
Gillen, Mark	House	R	HD-128	30%
Gregory, Jim	House	R	HD-080	30%
Greiner, Keith	House	R	HD-043	30%
Grove, Seth	House	R	HD-196	30%
James, Lee	House	R	HD-064	30%
Jones, Tom	House	R	HD-098	30%
Mentzer, Steve	House	R	HD-097	30%
O'Neal, Tim	House	R	HD-048	30%
Oberlander, Donna	House	R	HD-063	30%
Stehr, Joanne	House	R	HD-107	30%
Twardzik, Tim	House	R	HD-123	30%
Watro, Dane	House	R	HD-116	29.3%
Leadbeter, Robert	House	R	HD-109	29.3%
Banta, Jake	House	R	HD-004	27.9%
Benninghoff, Kerry	House	R	HD-171	27.9%
Borowicz, Stephanie	House	R	HD-076	27.5%
Gleim, Barb	House	R	HD-199	27.5%
Maloney, David	House	R	HD-130	27.5%
Kerwin, Joe	House	R	HD-125	27.3%
Zimmerman, Dave	House	R	HD-099	26.8%
Scialabba, Stephenie	House	R	HD-012	26.7%

The following representatives were not included on the scorecard because they had fewer than 10 scored votes: Sara Innamorato (D), Andre Carroll (D), Keith Harris (D), and Jeff Olsommer (R).

Bill #	Bill Subject	ACLU-PA Position	Bill Progress	Bill Description	ACLU-PA Issue Area(s)	ACLU-PA Bill Page
HB 43	Removing ARD as a basis for a founded child abuse report	Support	Passed Committee	HB 43 would amend current statutory language to prohibit acceptance into an accelerated rehabilitative disposition program (ARD) as a basis for designating a report of suspected child abuse report as “founded.” This change, which provides for stronger due process protections for those admitted to ARD, is a legislative fix to codify the PA Supreme Court’s ruling in J.F. v. Dep’t of Human Services.	Due Process	ACLU-PA Support for HB 43
HB 77	Excessive residency restrictions for certain Megan’s Law registrants	Oppose	In Committee	HB 77 would prohibit an individual classified as a sexually violent predator (SVP) from residing within 2,500 feet of a public school, private school, parochial school or daycare center for the duration of their required registration period. This excessive restriction would violate due process protections and would be illegally imposed retroactively.	Criminal Justice, Due Process	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 77
HB 188	Simplified Miranda warning for minors	Support	In Committee	HB 188 would require arresting law enforcement officers to read a simplified version of Miranda warnings prior to questioning a minor or suspected minor. This would ensure that Pennsylvania’s children are provided a full understanding of their constitutional right to protection from self-incrimination.	Criminal Justice, Police Practices	ACLU-PA Support for HB 188
HB 283	Requiring town hall meetings on proposed constitutional amendments	Support	Passed Committee	HB 283 would require that each member of the General Assembly hold a public meeting in their legislative district to receive public comment on proposed constitutional amendments or other statewide ballot questions. HB 283 would ensure that residents are aware of proposed amendments and other statewide ballot questions, have the opportunity to ask questions, and are given a forum to voice their opinions on proposed changes to our commonwealth’s founding document.	Constitutional Amendment, Open Government, Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Support for HB 283
HB 300	PA Fairness Act	Support	Passed House	HB 300 would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRA) to add explicit, statutory protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.	LGBTQ&T Rights	ACLU-PA Support for HB 300
HB 394	Expanding venues for civil action in trafficking cases	Support	Passed House	HB 394 would expand access to courts by adding a venue for a statutory civil action in human trafficking lawsuits. Lawsuits could be brought either where the victim resides or where the violations occurred, making it easier for trafficking victims to bring civil lawsuits by expanding the venue (or places) where they can bring the suit.	Due Process	ACLU-PA Support for HB 394
HB 461	Eliminating implied civil action for voter intimidation	Oppose	Passed Committee	HB 461 would confuse the already available implied private cause of action for anyone aggrieved by another person’s acts or threats that interfere with their ability to vote. By explicitly permitting a private cause of action for instances of voter intimidation, HB 461 would eliminate implied civil action and only allow it in cases where it was expressly permissible. It also would require a criminal conviction before a civil suit could be filed—a higher threshold than current law requires.	Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 461
HB 462	Banning police chokeholds and requiring use of force reporting	Neutral	Passed Committee	HB 462 would prohibit police use of chokeholds and positional asphyxia in certain situations, a reform the ACLU-PA supports. HB 462 would also establish use of force reporting requirements. Unfortunately, the use of force reporting requirements under SB 462 would yield little, if any, actionable information, offering neither transparency nor accountability. As a result—and by any metric—it fails as a reform measure, moving the ACLU-PA to neutral on this bill.	Criminal Justice, Police Practices	ACLU-PA Neutral on HB 462
HB 483	Establishing preemptive prosecutorial jurisdiction for Gun Violence Task Forces	Oppose	In Committee	HB 483 would mandate the creation of a Gun Violence Task Force (GVTF) in any county that exceeds a certain threshold for firearm-related deaths and would allow the Office of Attorney General (OAG) to assert preemptive prosecutorial jurisdiction for certain gun-related offenses. HB 483 would usurp the authority and discretion of local law enforcement, concentrating the power to decide whether and how to investigate and prosecute local cases with the OAG.	Criminal Justice, Separation of Powers	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 483

Bill #	Bill Subject	ACLU-PA Position	Bill Progress	Bill Description	ACLU-PA Issue Area(s)	ACLU-PA Bill Page
HB 507	Requiring consent for pelvic, rectal, and prostate exams	Support	Signed/Enacted/ Adopted	HB 507 would require health care providers, when involved in professional instruction or clinical training, to obtain specific informed consent (both verbal and written), before performing a pelvic, rectal, or prostate examination while the patient is anesthetized or unconscious in a facility that provides health care services.	Privacy & Surveillance, Reproductive Freedom	ACLU-PA Support for HB 507
HB 587	Expanding medical and elderly parole release	Support	Passed Committee	HB 587 would permit incarcerated individuals to petition for early release on parole due to age, illness, or medical reasons during a public health emergency. PA's current compassionate release mechanisms are so narrow as to be impractical in almost every case. Humanizing this system to expand compassionate release options would shift limited corrections resources to where they are most needed.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 587
HB 689	Clean Slate 3.0	Support	Signed/Enacted/ Adopted	HB 689 would make drug felonies and some property-related felonies eligible for criminal record sealing, while shortening eligibility waiting periods. This new Clean Slate bill would help people with old criminal records improve their employment prospects and help Pennsylvania employers find candidates for jobs that they desperately need to fill.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 689
HB 703	Extending emergency protection orders	Oppose	In Committee	HB 703 would extend the time period for emergency protection from abuse (PFA) orders up to 10 days. Such an extension, which can already be accomplished through a temporary order, would impede a defendant's due process rights. By extending an emergency order up to 10 days, a defendant could wait 20 or more days before they would be entitled to a hearing before a common pleas judge. The current process already balances the rights and interests of both parties without running afoul of due process.	Due Process	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 703
HB 716	Permitting community service in lieu of traffic fines	Support	Passed House	HB 716 would allow a court to impose community service in lieu of payment for traffic fines for those without the ability to pay fines and costs. Although this is already permitted under current law, many MDJs mistakenly believe that community service can't be ordered to replace payment of traffic fines. HB 716 would provide an important clarification that community service is available for traffic offenses, giving MDJs more tools in their toolbox for people who cannot pay.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 716
HB 751	Requiring higher burden of proof to impose the death penalty	Support	Passed Committee	After a conviction for first-degree murder, the jury decides whether to impose a life sentence or the death penalty. Juries consider outside factors that could make them more or less inclined to impose the death penalty. HB 751 would require that the state prove—beyond a reasonable doubt—that the aggravating circumstances of a case outweigh any mitigating factors before someone can be sentenced to death, a higher burden of proof than the current requirement of a preponderance of the evidence.	Criminal Justice, Due Process	ACLU-PA Support for HB 751
HB 815	Requiring electronic filing of campaign finance reports	Support	Passed House	HB 815 would require that all candidates for office and political action committees (PACs) in Pennsylvania utilize the Department of State's online filing system to electronically file campaign finance reports. Requiring electronic filing would not only improve government transparency and accountability, it would save the commonwealth money by reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies.	Open Government, Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Support for HB 815
HB 841	Limiting juvenile DNA data collection	Support	Passed House	HB 841 would limit the types of offenses for which a juvenile must provide a DNA sample after being tried as an adult or adjudicated delinquent. The bill would also require automatic expungement of juvenile DNA samples, records, or profiles once an offense is eligible for expungement.	Criminal Justice, Privacy & Surveillance	ACLU-PA Support for HB 841
HB 847	Pre-canvassing of ballots	Support	Passed House	HB 847 would amend the PA Election Code to require county boards of elections to meet no earlier than 7 days before an election day to pre-canvas all ballots received prior to that meeting. This would allow counties to begin preparing—but not counting—ballots before 7 am on Election Day, as current law requires, thereby increasing the likelihood that election results are reported sooner.	Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Support for HB 847

Bill #	Bill Subject	ACLU-PA Position	Bill Progress	Bill Description	ACLU-PA Issue Area(s)	ACLU-PA Bill Page
HB 900	Dignity for incarcerated women	Neutral	Signed/Enacted/ Adopted	HB 900 originally would have prohibited people who are incarcerated and pregnant from being shackled or placed in solitary confinement, while requiring trauma-informed care training of corrections officers who interact with pregnant or postpartum residents. However, amendments to the bill eroded protections against the use of solitary confinement for pregnant people and as a result, the ACLU-PA changed its position from support to neutral.	Criminal Justice, Reproductive Freedom	ACLU-PA Neutral on HB 900
HB 983	Removing DUI penalties for legal medical cannabis use	Support	Passed Committee	There are more than 700,000 people who have medical marijuana cards in PA—not a single one of them can lawfully drive. A trace amount of marijuana metabolite in the body, even weeks after medical marijuana use, can still result in a DUI charge. HB 983 strikes a rational balance between holding impaired drivers accountable and permitting nearly three-quarters of a million Pennsylvanians, many of whom are prescribed medical marijuana for a disability, the right to drive.	Criminal Justice, Drug Policy	ACLU-PA Support for HB 983
HB 999	Abolishing the death penalty	Support	Passed Committee	HB 999 would repeal the death penalty in PA. The death penalty denies equal protection of the laws, is cruel and unusual punishment, and violates guarantees of due process. It is so inconsistent with the underlying values of our democratic system—the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness—that the imposition of death for any crime is a denial of civil liberties. The only way to guarantee that no factually innocent person will be executed is to eliminate capital punishment entirely.	Criminal Justice, Due Process, Racial Equality	ACLU-PA Support for HB 999
HB 1067	Permitting qualified non-citizens to be certified as teachers	Support	Passed House	HB 1067 would amend the Public School Code to waive the citizenship requirement for teachers to allow qualified non-citizens—those with a valid immigrant visa, work visa or employment document—to be hired as teachers. As PA is facing a steep decline in its number of qualified teachers, HB 1067 would help alleviate this shortfall, expand employment opportunities for qualified residents, and ensure that Pennsylvania's teachers better reflect the diversity of the students in their classrooms.	Immigrants' Rights	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1067
HB 1085	Establishing a statewide Indigent Defense Advisory Committee and grant fund	Support	Passed House	HB 1085 would create an Indigent Defense Advisory Committee and a grant fund to support indigent defense. Pennsylvania remains the only state in the nation that fails to provide state-level funding for public defenders and instead requires that individual counties bear 100% of the financial burden to maintain their essential—and constitutionally required—public defense services.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1085
HB 1140	Contraceptive Coverage for All Act	Support	Passed House	HB 1140 would require insurance companies to cover all contraceptive drugs, devices, and other products and services at no cost to the consumer, ensuring that no one loses access to contraception because of their income—and guarantees it for those who need, want, and deserve it.	Reproductive Freedom	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1140
HB 1188	Requiring demographic impact statements for criminal offense bills	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1188 would allow a member of the General Assembly to request a demographic impact statement on any piece of legislation proposing changes to the crimes and offenses in Title 18 or sentencing laws in Title 42. Impact statements offer an effective and informative tool to evaluate potential disparities of proposed legislation on different demographic groups prior to adoption.	Criminal Justice, Open Government	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1188
HB 1220	Requiring additional campaign finance reporting for General Assembly candidates	Support	Passed House	Currently, PA House and Senate candidates are only required to file campaign expense reports on the second Friday before an election. HB 1220 would require candidates to file an additional pre-election campaign expense report on the sixth Tuesday prior to a primary election. This would ensure earlier disclosure and greater transparency regarding contributions made to candidates for the General Assembly.	Open Government, Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1220
HB 1243	Providing alternative verification options for REAL ID	Support	Passed House	PennDOT currently requires an applicant for REAL ID to provide an original Social Security card, but does not provide any other document options to verify a person's Social Security number. Pennsylvania is the only state that does not provide residents with alternative SSN verification options. HB 1243 would require PennDOT to accept additional documentation permitted under the federal REAL ID Act of 2005 to verify an applicant's Social Security number when applying for REAL ID.	Immigrants' Rights, Open Government	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1243

Bill #	Bill Subject	ACLU-PA Position	Bill Progress	Bill Description	ACLU-PA Issue Area(s)	ACLU-PA Bill Page
HB 1245	Expanding Syringe Services Programs (SSPs)	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1245 would expand access to Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) statewide. SSPs are community-based health programs that provide a range of services to those struggling with substance use disorder. SSPs also protect first responders and the public by providing safe syringe disposal and reducing the presence of discarded needles in our communities. By passing legislation to specifically allow for statewide SSPs, Pennsylvania will be able to access funding and expertise to support local programs.	Criminal Justice, Drug Policy	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1245
HB 1278	Permitting parole agents to wear body cameras	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	The ACLU-PA was previously neutral on HB 1278, but Senate amendments gutted hard-fought language that was successfully negotiated between stakeholders. As a result, HB 1278 reinstates several problematic provisions, two in particular: (1) the broad permission it grants parole agents to intercept communications, including third parties who are not under supervision; and (2) the failure to limit how or when footage may be shared with outside law enforcement agencies.	Criminal Justice, Police Practices, Privacy & Surveillance	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 1278
HB 1289	Removing racially restrictive deed covenants	Support	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	HB 1289 would provide property owners or homeowner associations a streamlined process to repudiate unlawful restrictive covenants from their deeds. An unlawful restrictive covenant is defined as a provision that purports to restrict ownership or occupancy of real property based on a practice or policy of discrimination against individuals or groups covered under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.	Racial Equality	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1289
HB 1332	Requiring fiscal notes for public debt ballot questions	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1332 would amend the Pennsylvania Election Code to require all state-wide and local-level ballot referendum questions involving a bond or borrowing measure to have a fiscal note included within the question, outlining specific information as it relates to the request. When the Commonwealth proposes to incur public debt through a bond or borrowing measure, the use of that public money and the financial repercussions of such a measure should be clearly provided to the voters.	Open Government	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1332
HB 1381	Omnibus juvenile justice reforms	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1381 is an omnibus bill that would make numerous, desperately needed improvements to the juvenile justice system. Significant reforms include: eliminating direct file, the practice of automatically charging children as if they were adults; prohibiting pretrial detention for youth under 14 and some other youth; eliminating juvenile fines and fees, and limiting restitution; capping the length of juvenile probation; and eliminating solitary in juvenile facilities with some exceptions.	Criminal Justice, Due Process, Police Practices	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1381
HB 1394	CROWN Act	Support	Passed House	HB 1394 would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to expand the definition of “race” to include traits associated with race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles. Protective hairstyles would include, but are not limited to, such hairstyles locs, braids, twists, coils, Bantu knots, afros and extensions. CROWN Act stands for Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair.	Racial Equality	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1394
HB 1399	Requiring law enforcement to wear visible ID at all times	Support	Passed House	HB 1399 would require all Pennsylvania law enforcement officers to have their badge, with all pertinent identifiable information, visible at all times without exception. Having a badge in clear view, regardless of whether an officer is in uniform or not, would not only ensure that people know when law enforcement is present, but are able to identify officers if and when they engage in unethical or illegal behavior.	Open Government, Police Practices, Privacy & Surveillance	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1399
HB 1410	Increasing opportunities for clemency in PA [constitutional amendment]	Support	Passed Committee	Currently, someone sentenced to life or the death penalty needs a unanimous vote by the Board of Pardons just to be considered for pardon or commutation by the governor. HB 1410 is a proposed amendment to the PA Constitution that would replace the unanimous vote requirement with a majority vote requirement to be considered for clemency. This majority requirement was the law before the late 1990’s, changed during the failed “tough on crime” policies of that era, and should be the law again today.	Constitutional Amendment, Criminal Justice, Racial Equality	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1410
HB 1466	Protecting public expression (anti-SLAPP reform)	Support	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	Pennsylvania’s current anti-SLAPP law is too narrow, too weak, and long overdue for an update. HB 1466 is a commonsense, bipartisan proposal that would protect all forms of First Amendment expression while making it easier for people to defend against frivolous lawsuits. Pennsylvanians deserve to speak freely without the threat of costly litigation standing in the way of their First Amendment right to public expression.	Free Speech, Religious Liberty	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1466

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HB 1470	Compensation for the wrongfully convicted	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1470 would establish a process to provide compensation and services to victims of wrongful conviction and imprisonment in Pennsylvania. The bill would provide \$100,000 for every year the person was incarcerated on death row; \$75,000 for each year of wrongful incarceration not on death row; and \$50,000 for each year someone spent on parole or probation for a crime they didn't commit. This is long overdue, as PA is one of only 12 states without any process to compensate the wrongly convicted.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1470
HB 1479	Requiring accessible digital content on state and local government websites	Support	Passed House	HB 1479 would provide IT accessibility standards for state and local government websites. Considering that online content is the primary way most people access government information, services, and their elected officials, HB 1479 would guarantee a more equitable and accessible experience for people with disabilities, while protecting Pennsylvanians' right to open and transparent government.	Open Government	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1479
HB 1488	Requiring proposed constitutional amendments appear only on general election ballots	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1488 would amend the Pennsylvania Election Code to require that ballot questions be submitted to voters only during a general election and only every two years when there is a presidential or gubernatorial election. This would ensure that ballot questions are submitted to and decided by as many eligible voters as possible, which means more Pennsylvanians have a say in amending our state constitution.	Open Government, Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1488
HB 1531	Closing the police misconduct database loophole	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1531 would strengthen the requirements of PA's police misconduct database. HB 1531 would close a loophole in the 2020 Act that created this database to prevent problematic police officers from being passed from department to department, with no way for those agencies to access—or even know about—an officer's previous history of misconduct before being hired. HB 1531 would provide PA communities with the kind of transparency, accountability, and compliance they deserve from law enforcement.	Open Government, Police Practices	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1531
HB 1551	Prohibiting prosecuting children as adults	Support	In Committee	Current law requires individuals between the ages of 15 and 17 charged with certain felonies be charged in adult court if they meet certain requirements, such as the use of a weapon during the alleged crime. Enacted during the 1990's racially-fueled hysteria over "super predators," this "direct file" law has proven to be an ineffective, failed, and cruel policy. In addition to repealing PA's direct file law, HB 1551 would prohibit prosecuting any child as an adult.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1551
HB 1599	Prohibiting solitary confinement for vulnerable populations	Support	In Committee	HB 1599 would provide new regulations for the use of solitary confinement in correctional institutions and facilities, greatly limiting and in many cases, prohibiting, the use of solitary confinement for vulnerable populations. There is no benefit to placing someone in isolation, and the excessive use of solitary confinement in our correctional facilities is cruel and unnecessary.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1599
HB 1601	Providing drivers licenses and work permits prior to reentry	Support	Passed House	HB 1601 would require the Department of Corrections to work in concert with the Department of Transportation and Department of Human Services to help people transitioning out of prison obtain a driver's license, Pennsylvania state ID, and/or work permit. This will assist people with their reentry process and help them take necessary steps to obtain employment, housing, and education.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1601
HB 1629	Criminalizing failure to secure firearms	Oppose	Passed Committee	HB 1629 would require safe storage of firearms in locations where minors might gain access to them and new criminal offenses for violating the bill's requirements. The ACLU-PA would not object to requiring safe storage of firearms or to imposing civil penalties if a minor accesses an unsecured firearm. But the ACLU-PA opposes any effort to hold parents (or other adults) criminally responsible via vicarious liability for the actions of their children or another minor.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 1629
HB 1678	PA Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act	Support	Passed House	HB 1678 would establish the Earned Vocational Training and Education Credit to allow people incarcerated in state facilities to earn vocational and educational credits against their minimum sentence. These credits would count towards reducing their sentence—10-180 days, depending on the program—making them eligible for parole or short sentence parole earlier than they would otherwise be.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1678

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HB 1700	Duplicating protections for federal judges	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/ Adopted	HB 1700 would add federal judicial officers as protected officials under 18 § 2719 (endangering a public official). But federal judges are already protected under several offenses in the U.S. Code. Additionally, under the dual sovereignty doctrine, HB 1700 would enable prosecution of the same conduct under both state and federal law. Duplicating protections for federal judges under state law will only lead to excessive punishment and even more unnecessary and redundant laws.	Criminal Justice, Due Process	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 1700
HB 1708	Expanding school diversion for juveniles	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1708 would enact a recommendation of the Juvenile Justice Task Force to require the expansion of in-school diversion for most school-based offenses, narrow the definition of "weapon" for the purposes of arresting students in schools, and increase oversight of education for children who are placed in private and state facilities.	Criminal Justice, Student & Youth Rights	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1708
HB 1726	Expanding authority to create public housing police forces	Oppose	Passed Committee	HB 1726 would amend the Housing Authorities Law to allow cities of the third class to establish public housing police forces. People living in policed public housing communities are disproportionately surveilled and criminalized. This is exacerbated by weaker Fourth Amendment protections for public housing residents that give police more expansive authority to stop, arrest, search and seize the people who live there.	Criminal Justice, Police Practices, Racial Equality	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 1726
HB 1781	Providing recovery support following a DUI charge	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1781 would ensure that defendants being assessed for drug and alcohol addiction following a DUI charge would also be considered for medication-assisted treatment in conjunction with behavioral therapies. PA's assessment process does not currently include consideration of medication when establishing treatment recommendations. HB 1781 would offer those charged with a DUI offense the means to enter and sustain recovery and therefore the greatest chance to avoid relapsing and reoffending.	Criminal Justice, Drug Policy	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1781
HB 1806	Restoring welfare fraud grading to prior thresholds	Support	Passed Committee	HB 1806 would restore the grading thresholds for welfare fraud to prior levels, after having been recently increased by the legislature. Those increases created a backlog of cases. By reverting to the previous statutory scheme, the Office of State Inspector General (OSIG) will be able to pursue a greater number of cases at the Magisterial District Justice level, increasing OSIG's efficiency and the likelihood that stolen public assistance funds will be recovered for use by qualified recipients.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 1806
HB 1859	Expanding the list of offenses that prohibit gun possession	Oppose	In Committee	HB 1859 would add numerous offenses to the list of convictions that prohibit gun possession. The bill would cast the net even wider by including the inchoate offenses for each current (and newly proposed) enumerated offense on the list. Furthermore, HB 1859 does not require that a firearm was used in the commission of a crime and would add offenses that are not considered "crimes of violence."	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 1859
HB 2017	Restricting youth access to social media	Oppose	Passed House	HB 2017 would restrict young people (under 16 years old) from accessing social media content that might cause harm to the "physical health, mental health or the wellbeing of a minor." To accomplish this, HB 2017 would require invasive age verification, violating young peoples' privacy and First Amendment right to free speech and right to access protected speech. As a result, vulnerable youth would likely struggle to access vital resources and supportive networks.	Free Speech, Privacy & Surveillance, Student & Youth Rights	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 2017
HB 2105	Expanding protections against workplace discrimination	Support	Passed House	HB 2015 would amend the PA Human Relations Act to remove the current exemptions that exclude agricultural and domestic workers. This would ensure that all workers have a right to be protected from discrimination in the workplace.	Immigrants' Rights, Racial Equality	ACLU-PA Support for HB 2105
HB 2231	Requiring recording of police interrogations	Support	Passed Committee	HB 2231 would adopt the Uniform Law Commission's "Uniform Electronic Recordation of Custodial Interrogations Act," which requires law enforcement to electronically record a custodial interrogation when it relates to a crime of violence allegedly committed by an adult or a minor, unless a legitimate exception exists. Recording police interrogations is a commonsense practice that protects defendants and law enforcement alike.	Criminal Justice, Police Practices	ACLU-PA Support for HB 2231

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HB 2266	New offenses for street racing	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/ Adopted	HB 2266 would create new, duplicative offenses to penalize street racing and "drifting." The new summary offenses could currently be charged under reckless driving, and the new third-degree felony offense could currently be charged as either aggravated assault by vehicle or homicide by vehicle.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 2266
HB 2269	Updating PA's definition of marriage	Support	Passed House	HB 2269 would amend Title 23 to update Pennsylvania's current definition of marriage and repeal the section that only recognizes marriage as being between a man and woman. In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the right to marry is a fundamental liberty and should be available to everyone, including same sex couples. HB 2269 would update the now-unconstitutional provisions under PA statute to accurately reflect the right to marriage equality.	LGBTQ&T Rights	ACLU-PA Support for HB 2269
HB 2296	Felony murder reform	Support	In Committee	Currently in PA, a person can be found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to mandatory life without parole, also known as felony murder, without committing, intending to commit, or having knowledge of the murder committed. HB 2296 would create a pathway to parole eligibility for adults and juveniles sentenced to felony murder, thereby incentivizing good behavior and rehabilitation while incarcerated via educational advancement, work opportunities, and religious programming.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 2296
HB 2428	Authorizing electronic driver's licenses and identification cards	Oppose	Passed Committee	HB 2428 would authorize PennDOT to issue electronic driver's licenses and ID cards, also known as mDLs (mobile driver's licenses), but fails to include vital privacy safeguards along with this new technology. At a minimum, HB 2428 must prohibit centralized ID tracking and further limit police searches of cell phones in order to offer the benefits of mDLs without leaving Pennsylvanians vulnerable to warrantless searches and a powerful, centralized government surveillance and tracking system.	Police Practices, Privacy & Surveillance	ACLU-PA Opposition to HB 2428
HB 2429	Providing medical assistance upon reentry	Support	Passed House	HB 2429 would authorize the PA Department of Corrections to establish a medical assistance reentry program for incarcerated individuals who are scheduled to be released and returning to their community. This would ensure a continuity of care, so that access to medication, substance use disorder treatment, and case management services are not disrupted.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HB 2429
HR 113	Police body camera study	Support	Signed/Enacted/ Adopted	HR 113 would direct the Joint State Government Commission to study how body-worn cameras and footage are currently used and stored in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvanians deserve to know how body cameras are being used by law enforcement agencies across the state, which departments are utilizing body-worn cameras, and how cameras and footage can more effectively contribute to police and civilian accountability.	Police Practices	ACLU-PA Support for HR 113
HR 269	Task force to study PA's criminal code	Support	Signed/Enacted/ Adopted	HR 269 would direct the Joint State Government Commission to establish a bipartisan task force to study the Pennsylvania crimes code. PA criminal law has offenses scattered all over the consolidated and unconsolidated statutes, is riddled with duplicative crimes, and plagued by ad hoc, inconsistent grading that undermines any standard of proportional punishment. HR 269 would provide a desperately needed—and long overdue—comprehensive assessment of Pennsylvania's criminal law.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HR 269
HR 416	Studying the dependence on fees to fund PA courts	Support	Passed Committee	HR 416 would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and issue a report to the General Assembly on how dependent our court system has grown on collecting fines and fees to pay for its operational needs, forecast future suspected growth in this trend, and detail what would be needed should the legislature wish to stem this projection or eliminate it.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for HR 416
SB 1	Constitutional amendments to change voting procedures, limit regulatory authority, and extend statute of limitations [constitutional amendment]	Oppose	Passed Senate	When SB 1 passed the Senate, it proposed three separate constitutional amendments that would 1) limit executive branch regulatory authority; 2) require voters to show ID at each election; and 3) create a two-year statute of limitations window for survivors of child sexual abuse. The House amended SB 1 to limit the bill to the statute of limitations amendment, on which the ACLU-PA took no position. As a result, only the final Senate floor vote was scored.	Due Process, LGBTQ&T Rights, Racial Equality, Reproductive Freedom, Student & Youth Rights, Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 1 / SB 106

Bill #	Bill Subject	ACLU-PA Position	Bill Progress	Bill Description	ACLU-PA Issue Area(s)	ACLU-PA Bill Page
SB 7	Censoring educational and library materials	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 7 would require schools to identify sexually explicit content in school curriculum, materials, and books, notify parents and allow them to review those materials, require parental consent for their children to access the material, and provide alternative curricula if they object. This policy would likely result in preemptive censorship, especially of LGBTQIA+ materials, and would divert educators from prioritizing their work with students.	Free Speech, LGBTQ&T Rights, Student & Youth Rights	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 7
SB 22	Restricting youth access to social media content	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 22 would attempt to protect minors from harmful social media content by prohibiting social media companies / platforms from causing or encouraging minors to access content that creates harm to the "physical health, mental health or wellbeing of a minor." In doing so, SB 22 risks violating the First Amendment, inviting parental surveillance (including of at-risk youth), and imposing unenforceable requirements on social media companies.	Free Speech	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 22
SB 37	New offense for distracted driving	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 37 would create a new offense to prohibit motorists from using "interactive mobile devices" while driving. This new offense would dangerously expand law enforcement's power to conduct and justify pretextual traffic stops. Giving police newfound justification to pull people over would make people less safe, while simultaneously undermining local efforts to find less expensive, more effective, and less lethal ways to enforce low-level traffic violations.	Police Practices	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 37
SB 44	Expanding the definition of trafficking in individuals	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 44 would expand the definition of trafficking in individuals to include those who "patronize" a person that may be subject to sexual servitude. Patronizing a victim of sexual servitude is already punishable as a third-degree felony because current law recognizes the difference between someone who is engaged in the process or business of trafficking and someone who patronizes a person being trafficked. SB 44 would erase this critical distinction.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 44
SB 99	Banning drop boxes and satellite voting locations	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 99 would prohibit counties from providing drop boxes and satellite locations to voters. Instead, voters would be required to submit their ballot in person at the county election office and hand it to an employee. Drop boxes and satellite offices provide voters with a secure way to submit their ballot. This is especially critical for voters with disabilities, rural voters, and those who vote close to Election Day and can't be certain that the postal service will deliver their ballot on time.	Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 99
SB 125	Removing Pennsylvania from ERIC	Oppose	Passed Committee	Currently, Pennsylvania participates in ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center), a multi-state cooperative funded by member dues. SB 125 is structured to prohibit PA from participating in the ERIC cooperative, the only reliable tool for cleaning up voter registration records between states. If this bill is motivated by genuine "voter fraud" concerns, then continuing PA's participation in ERIC is an effective way to guard against those concerns.	Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 125
SB 135	Parole eligibility for lifers	Support	In Committee	SB 135 would, in most cases, abolish death by incarceration by eliminating the ability to sentence adults and juveniles to life without parole for first- and second-degree convictions, offering second chances to some of the more than 5,000 people who are serving life without parole in Pennsylvania. The bill would also change the penalty for people previously convicted of two crimes of violence to a minimum of 20 years and up to life with the possibility of parole.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for SB 135
SB 140	Special prosecutor for Philadelphia public transit	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 140 would create a "special prosecutor" under the Attorney General's office who is responsible for prosecuting and investigating all crimes that occur on public transportation in Philadelphia. SB 140 is a brazen attempt to undermine the authority of one district attorney, in one city, to override the votes of every Philadelphian who elected him. It would also violate the PA Constitution, which prohibits the state from creating special laws that interfere with local authority.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 140
SB 165	Banning overdose prevention sites	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 165 would charge any overdose prevention center with a felony, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and up to \$500,000 in fines for an individual or up to \$2,000,000 in fines for a clinic. These penalties EXCEED the statutory maximum penalties for a first-degree felony. In other words, the penalty for providing a space that can save people from deadly overdoses is <i>more severe than the punishment for murder</i> .	Criminal Justice, Drug Policy	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 165

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SB 168	Funding for indigent juvenile defense services	Support	Enacted via Budget Code Bill	SB 168 would require the Department of Human Services to reimburse counties for 50% of court costs related to the appointment of counsel in juvenile proceedings. PA is woefully negligent in funding indigent defense, as it remains the only state that fails to contribute any state-level funding to provide constitutionally-required counsel for those who cannot afford it. Funding provided under SB 168 would strengthen due process and procedural safeguards for indigent juvenile defendants.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for SB 168
SB 170	Creating a standardized statewide expungement process	Support	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 170 would create a standardized statewide expungement process for juvenile records under certain circumstances and require a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer to notify the court when a person's juvenile record(s) are eligible for expungement. Establishing a mechanism to expunge these records would ensure that young people who have completed their obligations to the court are not held back from successful transition into adulthood due to prior involvement in the juvenile justice system.	Criminal Justice, Student & Youth Rights	ACLU-PA Support for SB 170
SB 210	Increasing Right-to-Know fees for commercial requesters	Oppose	Passed Committee	Currently, PA's Right-to-Know Law does not distinguish between requests for commercial or noncommercial purposes. SB 210 would add a new category of commercial requesters subject to different rules and fee structures. If enacted, this would be the first time PA's 65-year old public records law would allow government agencies to treat requesters differently depending on who they are and why they want the information. If a record is public, it should be available to everyone without exception.	Open Government	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 210
SB 235	Mandatory minimum sentences for drug delivery (Tyler's Law)	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 235 would impose a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years and a fine of \$15,000 (or more) for any person convicted of drug delivery resulting in death if the person had two or more prior convictions, or any person who "received anything of value" in exchange for any controlled or counterfeit controlled substance. Not only would SB 235 result in the imprisonment of people suffering from substance use disorder, it would impose the failed and ineffective blunt instrument of mandatory minimums.	Criminal Justice, Drug Policy	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 235
SB 239	Corrections officers bill of rights	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 239 would establish guidelines and procedures that govern the investigation and interrogation of correctional and forensic employees. The due process protections for non-criminal misconduct are too broad, making it easier to hide misconduct and harder to hold officers accountable.	Due Process, Police Practices	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 239
SB 250	Unnecessary paper ballot mandates	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 250 would require that all paper ballots meet multiple unnecessary security standards. These measures are not only unnecessary, but would likely not comply with voting system manufacturers' current requirements for suitable paper. SB 250 is an unworkable, expensive, and unfunded mandate and one that has been tried in other states and then abandoned.	Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 250
SB 255	Requiring financial disclosure for write-in candidates	Support	Passed Committee	Currently, only candidates who file nominating petitions are subject to removal from the ballot for failure to file financial disclosure documents—candidates placed on the ballot due to a write-in campaign are not. SB 255 would extend the requirement for filing a statement of financial interests to all candidates who appear on the ballot in a General Election to provide voters increased transparency about candidates running for public office.	Open Government, Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Support for SB 255
SB 355	Penalty for destruction of public records	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 355 would create a new, duplicative offense to punish the destruction of requested public records as a third-degree felony. Tampering with public records or information (18 Pa.C.S. § 4911) already covers the behavior described in SB 355. As such, SB 355 is unnecessary and clearly duplicative. In addition, the third-degree felony grading, even for a first offense, is excessively punitive.	Criminal Justice, Open Government	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 355
SB 371	Establishing a statewide Indigent Defense Advisory Committee and grant fund	Support	Enacted via Budget Code Bill	SB 371 would create an Indigent Defense Advisory Committee and a grant fund to support indigent defense. Pennsylvania remains the only state in the nation that fails to provide state-level funding for public defenders and instead requires that individual counties bear 100% of the financial burden to maintain their essential—and constitutionally required—public defense services.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Support for SB 371

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SB 383	Prohibiting pre-checked donation boxes to solicit recurring campaign contributions	Support	Passed Committee	SB 383 would prohibit the use of pre-checked donation boxes to solicit recurring campaign contributions from donors without their consent. SB 383 is a commonsense way to limit the ability of campaigns to default to recurring online donations and instead would require campaigns to obtain donors' express agreement for the payment of recurring political donations.	Privacy & Surveillance, Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Support for SB 383
SB 408	Constitutional amendment tracking	Support	Passed Committee	SB 408 would establish a useful, transparent mechanism to publicly monitor the status of the procedural steps required for a proposed amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution during the critical time after the General Assembly passes the amendment in a second consecutive session and before it appears on the ballot for voters to approve or reject.	Constitutional Amendment, Open Government, Voting Rights/Elections	ACLU-PA Support for SB 408
SB 425	Prohibiting court deference	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 425 would prohibit the court from deferring to an executive branch agency when considering the interpretation of a vague or unclear statute. If there is ambiguity in the statutory language, the proper approach would be for the legislature to clarify the statute, not limit the power and authority of the other two branches.	Separation of Powers	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 425
SB 525	Limiting right to know requests from repeat requesters	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 525 would limit the number of right to know requests from repeat—or "vexatious"—requesters. Such a provision would violate requesters' constitutional right to petition the government and to due process. If enacted, SB 525 would permit agencies to pick and choose which Pennsylvanians are entitled to access to public records. If a record is public, then it should be available to all members of the public—without exception.	Due Process, Free Speech, Open Government	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 525
SB 527	Creating a duplicative offense for mail theft	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 527 would create a new, duplicative offense that could already be charged under current law (theft by unlawful taking). Furthermore, it would treat acceptance of ARD as an adjudication of guilt to trigger penalty enhancements, likely violating constitutional guarantees of due process and the presumption of innocence.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 527
SB 563	New offenses criminalizing ransomware attacks	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 563 would make the possession, use, sale, threat to use ransomware or inducement of another person to commit one of these acts a crime, many of which can be penalized under current law. The bill includes important notification requirements and plans to study the susceptibility, preparedness, and ability of commonwealth agencies to respond to ransomware attacks. Unfortunately, the strength of those provisions cannot outweigh the excessive criminal penalties provided for under this bill.	Criminal Justice, Privacy & Surveillance	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 563
SB 596	Lowering the felony threshold for retail theft	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 596 would amend the organized retail theft statute to drastically lower the thresholds for the retail value of stolen goods to make it easier to charge people with felonies. SB 596 is a bill that relies on demonstrably failed policies in response to an exaggerated "crisis." If enacted, it would exacerbate existing racial and economic disparities in our criminal legal system, putting more people behind bars for longer.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 596
SB 598	Extending PA Wiretap Act sunset provision	Support	Passed Senate	Pennsylvania's Wiretap Act includes a sunset provision, currently due to expire on December 31st, 2023. SB 598 would extend the sunset deadline until December 31st, 2029. It is critical that the legislature does not allow the Wiretap Act to expire, as it provides numerous privacy protections for Pennsylvanians. It also includes permission for the use of body cameras by law enforcement.	Open Government, Police Practices, Privacy & Surveillance	ACLU-PA Support for SB 598
SB 709	Enhanced penalties for taking, harming, or killing a bald eagle	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 709 would enhance the penalties for killing a bald or golden eagle one degree higher than for any other endangered or threatened species. Currently, this offense already provides for steep penalties, all of which would carry time ranging from 2-7 years in prison, fines between \$5k-\$15k, and a possible suspension of a hunting license from 7-15 years. There is no need to carve out one endangered species for overly punitive penalties.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 709

Bill #	Bill Subject	ACLU-PA Position	Bill Progress	Bill Description	ACLU-PA Issue Area(s)	ACLU-PA Bill Page
SB 819	New offenses for critical infrastructure violations	Oppose	Passed Senate	The new offenses proposed under SB 819 are unnecessary and duplicative, as violations against critical infrastructure facilities are already covered under PA's existing criminal trespass and vandalism statutes.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 819
SB 838	Faux probation "reform"	Oppose	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 838 fails to meaningfully reform our broken probation system and changes current law in ways that risk making probation worse in PA by making it easier for judges to incarcerate people after revoking their probation and allowing judges to keep people on probation indefinitely for those who can't pay restitution in full. As such, SB 838 squanders a rare opportunity to meaningfully improve probation in Pennsylvania while threatening to exacerbate the problems that drive its dysfunction.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 838
SB 842	New offense for harassment of sports officials	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 842 would create a new, separate and duplicative offense for actions already criminalized as harassment under current law. This new offense would punish harassment of sports officials more severely than almost any other target of harassment. This is an unnecessary bill that only serves to further bloat our criminal code, while handing prosecutors more charges to stack against defendants to induce guilty pleas.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 842
SB 897	Increased penalties for school bus-related traffic violations	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 897 would increase fines and impose enhanced penalties for repeat offenses for school bus-related traffic violations. Current penalties are significant already. Imposing an across-the-board fine increase is the same failed logic used to justify mandatory minimums. Needlessly increasing penalties, which we know do not have any deterrent effect, only exacerbates financial inequalities between people who can afford to have an attorney represent them at a traffic hearing and those who cannot.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 897
SB 907	Requiring armed officers in every PA school	Oppose	Enacted via Budget Code Bill	SB 907 would amend the Public School Code to require that every school entity in PA have at least one full-time armed school security person on duty during the school day. SB 907 will create a more intimidating and militarized learning environment for students, exacerbate Pennsylvania's high student arrest rates—especially for students of color and students with disabilities—while likely increasing the risk of injury and death during a school shooting.	Criminal Justice, Police Practices, Racial Equality, Student & Youth Rights	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 907
SB 913	Requiring parental consent for virtual school counseling services	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 913 would require parental consent for virtual mental health services provided by a school entity. SB 913 places obstacles in the path of support when teens are at an increased risk for mental health issues at a time when there aren't enough therapists in our schools or communities to adequately meet their needs. Rather than establishing "appropriate safeguards", SB 913 is a thinly veiled attempt to circumvent existing laws that give 14+ year olds autonomy over their own care.	Student & Youth Rights	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 913
SB 959	Automatic scheduling of controlled substances	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 959 would permit the automatic scheduling and rescheduling of substances under PA's drug code to align with federal drug schedules. The ACLU-PA would have been neutral on this stand-alone change. However, SB 959 not only fails to provide for a similar process to deschedule or lower the schedule of a substance if/when its federal schedule changes, but it also eliminates the current ability for the PA Secretary of Health to make such an adjustment.	Criminal Justice, Drug Policy	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 959
SB 975	Penalizing false reports of emergency threats to educational facilities	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 975 would make any threat against a school or educational facility a third-degree felony, punishable by up to 7 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines. But current law already punishes threats against a school as a third-degree felony if it resulted in people being "diverted from their normal operations." If it didn't, the offense is graded as a first-degree misdemeanor. As such, SB 975 is both overly punitive and likely redundant.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 975
SB 977	Duplicating criminal penalties for offenses against public transportation workers	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 977 would create a new criminal offense, with five suboffenses, to punish harm caused to public transportation operators. Each of these offenses are already criminalized under current law and as such, are duplicative and unnecessary.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 977

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SB 988	Pre-conviction DNA collection	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 988 proposes a massive expansion of genetic surveillance—seizing DNA from people who are presumed innocent under the law, turning them into permanent suspects. Authorizing law enforcement to accumulate genetic data from people without a warrant flies in the face of our most foundational constitutional principles, like the presumption of innocence and the rights to privacy and due process.	Criminal Justice, Due Process, Police Practices, Privacy & Surveillance, Racial Equality	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 988
SB 998	New offenses for street racing	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 998 would create new, duplicative offenses to penalize street racing and "drifting." The new summary offenses could currently be charged under reckless driving, and the new third-degree felony offense could currently be charged as either aggravated assault by vehicle or homicide by vehicle.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 998
SB 1021	New offense for leaving a minor unattended at a casino	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 1021 would add a new suboffense to 18 Pa.C.S. § 4304 (endangering welfare of children) to make "leaving a child unattended in any part of a licensed gaming facility" a third-degree felony offense. This is an unnecessary and duplicative offense, since § 4304 would already penalize leaving a child unattended <i>anywhere</i> as a third-degree felony.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 1021
SB 1031	Licensing reform for natural hair braiders	Support	Passed Senate	SB 1031 would eliminate the unnecessary and burdensome requirements for the licensing of natural hair braiders in Pennsylvania. Instead, the bill would convert licenses to permits. Removing the onerous prerequisite that natural hair braiders complete 300 hours of instruction at a cosmetology school prior to examination and licensing would unburden small business owners of this costly regulation while preserving the positive benefits of examination and consumer safety granted by licensure.	Racial Equality	ACLU-PA Support for SB 1031
SB 1118	Permitting community service in lieu of traffic fines	Support	Signed/Enacted/Adopted	SB 1118 would allow courts to impose community service in lieu of payment for traffic fines for those who are unable to pay, while also requiring judges to follow robust guidelines for holding ability to pay hearings. SB 1118 would alleviate the archaic and overly punitive practice of suspending a person's driver's license as punishment for nonpayment or failure to respond to a citation, or jailed simply because they can't afford to pay a traffic ticket.	Criminal Justice, Due Process	ACLU-PA Support for SB 1118
SB 1120	Denying non-monetary bail for certain charges	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 1120 would unconstitutionally prohibit judges from assigning non-monetary bail for defendants based only on their charges. SB 1120 would violate (1) the constitutional requirements for bail consideration, and (2) the constitutional separation of powers, which gives the courts power to decide criminal legal procedures. In addition, if enacted, SB 1120 would have little effect on current bail practices. It would, however, exacerbate economic and racial disparities in the criminal legal system.	Criminal Justice, Due Process	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 1120
SB 1127	Requiring prosecutors to assist ICE in federal civil immigration enforcement	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 1127 would require state and county prosecutors to notify ICE if they become aware that a criminal defendant is not a citizen or is otherwise unlawfully in the U.S. ICE already has more than enough tools it needs to target people for immigration enforcement. Furthermore, entangling these two distinct systems by involving ICE during on-going criminal cases could have harmful ripple effects throughout the criminal legal system.	Criminal Justice, Due Process, Immigrants' Rights	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 1127
SB 1260	Stand with Israel Act	Oppose	Passed Senate	SB 1260 would prohibit PA state funds from boycotting or divesting from Israel and would withhold funding to higher education institutions that engage in a boycott or divestment from Israel. While narrowly tailored, by applying its restrictions to private and state-related schools, SB 1260 would violate First Amendment protections. The Commonwealth should not dictate whether those entities get funding based on political considerations.	Free Speech	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 1260
SB 1271	New felony offense for false, deceptive or misleading names	Oppose	Passed Committee	SB 1271 would create a third-degree felony offense to prohibit entities from using false, deceptive, or misleading names that suggest a connection to or endorsement by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or its municipalities, punishable by up to 7 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines. Not only is it unclear what problem the bill is attempting to address, criminalizing this activity by imposing a third-degree felony penalty is unnecessary and wildly excessive.	Criminal Justice	ACLU-PA Opposition to SB 1271