

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1681 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY COOPER, HAMM, KAUFFMAN, ZIMMERMAN, E. NELSON,  
KUZMA AND BERNSTINE, JUNE 30, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 30, 2025

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in particular rights and  
3 immunities, providing for immunity for security officers of  
4 religious organizations.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 8340.4. Immunity for security officers of religious  
10 organizations.

11 (a) Immunity.--Except as provided in subsection (b), in  
12 addition to any other applicable immunity or limitation on civil  
13 liability, a security officer of a religious organization shall  
14 be entitled to civil immunity for any injury or loss to property  
15 resulting from the security officer's actions in defense or in  
16 protection of the religious organization for which the security  
17 officer provided safety, security or protection services.

18 (b) Exception.--The immunity provided under subsection (a)  
19 shall not apply to an act or omission that arises out of any

1 reckless, malicious, grossly negligent or wanton action or  
2 conduct by the security officer.

3 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
4 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
5 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 "Religious organization." A body or community of individuals  
7 that is organized primarily for the purpose of engaging in  
8 religious worship or promoting the spiritual development or  
9 well-being of individuals.

10 "Security officer." A volunteer of a religious organization  
11 who provides the following services for the religious  
12 organization as determined by the religious organization:

13 (1) Protection of persons and property.

14 (2) Monitoring visitors.

15 (3) Deterrence, observation, detection or reporting of  
16 incidents and activities for the purpose of preventing the  
17 theft, conversion, concealment or misappropriation of  
18 personal property.

19 (4) Deterrence, observation, detection or reporting of  
20 incidents and activities for the purpose of preventing any  
21 unauthorized or unlawful activity, including robbery,  
22 burglary, arson, criminal mischief, vandalism or trespass.

23 "Volunteer." An individual who provides services without an  
24 express or implied promise of remuneration.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.