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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 500 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, KILLION, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, HUGHES,  
MENSCH, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER AND MCGARRIGLE,  
MARCH 28, 2017

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 28, 2017

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in protection from abuse, further  
3 providing for commencement of proceedings.

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

6 Section 1. Section 6106(h) of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 6106. Commencement of proceedings.

9 \* \* \*

10 (h) Assistance and advice to plaintiff.--The courts and  
11 hearing officers shall:

12 (1) Provide simplified forms and clerical assistance in  
13 English and Spanish to help with the writing and filing of  
14 the petition for a protection order for an individual not  
15 represented by counsel.

16 (2) Provide the plaintiff with written and oral  
17 referrals, in English and Spanish, to the local domestic  
18 violence program, to the local legal services office and to

1 the county bar association's lawyer referral service.

2 (3) Direct the police, sheriff or other individual  
3 approved by the court as an alternate designee to accompany  
4 the plaintiff to the plaintiff's residence before or during  
5 service of the petition and orders, if the plaintiff avers  
6 that the assistance is necessary to protect the plaintiff's  
7 safety.

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