THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 508

Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY COX, COHEN, CUTLER, M. DALEY, DIAMOND, EVANKOVICH, FRANKEL, GABLER, GIBBONS, J. HARRIS, M. K. KELLER, KORTZ, KRIEGER, MULLERY, MURT, RAPP, ROAE, SIMS, STURLA, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD AND NESBIT, JUNE 25, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 25, 2015

AN ACT

Amending Titles 4 (Amusements), 18 (Crimes and Offenses), 30 1 (Fish), 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 75 2 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in administration and enforcement relating to gaming, further providing for prohibited acts and penalties; in inchoate crimes, further providing for the offense of manufacture, 5 6 7 distribution, use or possession of devices for theft of telecommunication services; in criminal homicide, further 9 providing for drug delivery resulting in death; in loss of property rights relating to sexual offenses, further 10 providing for general rule; repealing provisions relating to 11 process and seizure, to custody of property and to disposal 12 of property; in forgery and other fraudulent practices, 13 further providing for the offenses of copying and recording 14 devices and of trademark counterfeiting; in riot, disorderly 15 conduct and related offenses, further providing for the 16 offense of gambling devices, gambling, etc; in wiretapping 17 and electronic surveillance, further providing for seizure 18 and forfeiture of electronic, mechanical or other devices; in 19 minors, further providing for sentencing and penalties for 20 trafficking drugs to minors; in nuisances, further providing 21 22 for the offense of scattering rubbish; in other offenses, further providing for drug trafficking sentencing and 23 penalties; in vehicle chop shop and illegally obtained and 24 altered property, further providing for loss of property 25 rights to Commonwealth; repealing provisions relating to 26 procedure with respect to seized property subject to liens 27 28 and rights of lienholders; in enforcement relating to Fish 29 and Boat Code, further providing for forfeiture of fish and devices; adding provisions relating to asset forfeiture in 30 Judicial Code; in forfeitures, further providing for 31 controlled substances forfeiture and procedure with respect 32

- to seized property subject to liens and rights of
- lienholders; in size, weight and load relating to Vehicle 2
- 3
- Code, further providing for transporting foodstuffs in vehicles used to transport waste; in liquid fuels and fuel 4
- use tax enforcement, further providing for forfeitures, 5
- process and procedures and for disposition of fines and
- 7 forfeitures; and making repeals of provisions of the Liquor
- Code, the Tax Reform Code of 1971 and another act relating to 8
- certain forfeiture of property. 9
- 10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- 11 hereby enacts as follows:
- 12 Section 1. Section 1518(f) of Title 4 of the Pennsylvania
- 13 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:
- 14 § 1518. Prohibited acts; penalties.
- * * * 15
- 16 Property subject to seizure, confiscation, destruction
- 17 or forfeiture. -- Any equipment, device or apparatus, money,
- material, gaming proceeds or substituted proceeds or real or 18
- personal property used, obtained or received or any attempt to 19
- 20 use, obtain or receive the device, apparatus, money, material,
- proceeds or real or personal property in violation of this part 21
- 22 shall be subject to [seizure, confiscation, destruction or
- 23 forfeiture] the provisions of 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58 (relating to
- 24 <u>asset forfeiture</u>).
- 25 Section 2. Sections 910(c.1), 2506(f) and 3141 of Title 18
- are amended to read: 26
- 27 § 910. Manufacture, distribution, use or possession of devices
- 28 for theft of telecommunications services.
- 29 * * *
- Forfeiture of unlawful telecommunication devices .--30
- Upon conviction of a defendant under this section, the court 31
- 32 may, in addition to any other sentence authorized by law, direct
- 33 that the defendant forfeit any unlawful telecommunication
- devices in the defendant's possession or control which were 34

- 1 involved in the violation for which the defendant was convicted.
- 2 The forfeiture shall be conducted in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S.
- 3 Ch. 58 (relating to asset forfeiture).
- 4 * * *
- 5 § 2506. Drug delivery resulting in death.
- 6 * * *
- 7 (f) Forfeiture. -- Assets against which [a forfeiture
- 8 petition] an information or indictment seeking forfeiture has
- 9 been filed and is pending or against which the Commonwealth has
- 10 indicated an intention to file [a forfeiture petition] an
- 11 <u>information or indictment seeking a forfeiture</u> shall not be
- 12 subject to a fine. Nothing in this section shall prevent a fine
- 13 from being imposed on assets which have been subject to an
- 14 unsuccessful forfeiture [petition] proceeding.
- 15 § 3141. General rule.
- 16 A person:
- 17 (1) convicted under section 3121 (relating to rape),
- 18 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault), 3123 (relating
- 19 to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse), 3124.1 (relating
- to sexual assault), 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent
- 21 assault) or 3126 (relating to indecent assault); or
- 22 (2) required to register with the Pennsylvania State
- Police under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. H (relating to
- 24 registration of sexual offenders);
- 25 may be required to forfeit property rights in any property or
- 26 assets used to implement or facilitate commission of the crime
- 27 or crimes of which the person has been convicted. [Such property
- 28 may include, but is not limited to, a computer or computers,
- 29 telephone equipment, firearms, licit or illicit prescription
- 30 drugs or controlled substances, a motor vehicle or such other

- 1 property or assets as determined by the court of common pleas to
- 2 have facilitated the person's criminal misconduct.] The
- 3 forfeiture shall be conducted in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. Ch.
- 4 58 (relating to asset forfeiture).
- 5 Section 3. Sections 3142, 3143 and 3144 of Title 18 are
- 6 repealed:
- 7 [§ 3142. Process and seizure.
- 8 (a) Seizure.--Property subject to forfeiture under this
- 9 section may be seized by law enforcement authority upon process
- 10 issued by the court of common pleas having jurisdiction over the
- 11 person or property.
- 12 (b) Seizure without process. -- Seizure without process may be
- 13 made if the seizure is incident to an arrest or a search under a
- 14 search warrant and there is probable cause to be believe that
- 15 the property was or is material to the charges for which the
- 16 arrest or search warrant was issued. In seizures without
- 17 process, proceedings for the issuance thereof shall be
- 18 instituted immediately.
- 19 (c) Return of property. -- Property belonging to someone other
- 20 than the convicted sex offender or registrant shall be returned
- 21 if the offense was committed without the knowledge or consent of
- 22 the owner.
- 23 § 3143. Custody of property.
- 24 Property taken or detained under this subchapter is deemed to
- 25 be the property of the law enforcement authority having custody
- 26 thereof and is subject only to the court of common pleas having
- 27 jurisdiction over the criminal or forfeiture proceedings, the
- 28 district attorney in the matter or the Attorney General.
- 29 § 3144. Disposal of property.
- 30 Property taken or detained pursuant to the provisions of this

- 1 subchapter shall be sold in the manner of property forfeited
- 2 under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 68 (relating to forfeitures). The net
- 3 proceeds, as determined by the law enforcement authority having
- 4 custody thereof, shall be utilized for investigation or
- 5 prosecution of sexual offenses or donated to nonprofit
- 6 charitable institutions which provide counseling and other
- 7 assistance to victims of sexual offenses.]
- 8 Section 4. Sections 4116(i), 4119(f)(1) and (2)(i), 5513(b),
- 9 5707, 6314(f), 6501(b)(5) and (d), 7508(e) and 7707 of Title 18
- 10 are amended to read:
- 11 § 4116. Copying; recording devices.
- 12 * * *
- 13 (i) Forfeiture.--
- 14 (1) No property right shall exist in any property used
- or intended for use in the commission of a violation of this
- section or in any proceeds traceable to a violation of this
- 17 section, and the same shall be deemed contraband and
- 18 forfeited in accordance with the provisions [set forth in
- section 6501(d) (relating to scattering rubbish)] of 42
- 20 <u>Pa.C.S. Ch. 58 (relating to asset forfeiture)</u>.
- 21 [(2) Property and proceeds found in close proximity to
- illegally recorded devices shall be rebuttably presumed to be
- 23 used or intended for use to facilitate a violation of this
- 24 section.]
- 25 (3) The provisions of this subsection shall not, in any
- 26 way, limit the right of the Commonwealth to exercise any
- 27 rights or remedies otherwise provided by law.
- 28 § 4119. Trademark counterfeiting.
- 29 * * *
- 30 (f) Seizure, forfeiture and disposition.--

- 1 (1) Any items bearing a counterfeit mark, any property
- 2 constituting or derived from any proceeds obtained[, directly
- or indirectly, as the result of an offense under this
- 4 section and all personal property, including, but not limited
- 5 to, any items, objects, tools, machines, equipment,
- 6 instrumentalities or vehicles of any kind, used in connection
- 7 with a violation of this section shall be seized by a law
- 8 enforcement officer.
- 9 (2) (i) All seized personal property and property
- 10 constituting or derived from any proceeds referenced in
- 11 paragraph (1) shall be forfeited in accordance with [the
- procedures set forth in section 6501(d) (relating to
- scattering rubbish)] 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58 (relating to asset
- forfeiture).
- 15 * * *
- 16 § 5513. Gambling devices, gambling, etc.
- 17 * * *
- 18 (b) Confiscation of gambling devices. -- Any gambling device
- 19 possessed or used in violation of the provisions of subsection
- 20 (a) of this section shall be seized and forfeited to the
- 21 Commonwealth. [All provisions of law relating to the seizure,
- 22 summary and judicial forfeiture, and condemnation of
- 23 intoxicating liquor shall apply to seizures and forfeitures
- 24 under the provisions of this section.] The forfeiture shall be
- 25 <u>conducted in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58</u> (relating to
- 26 <u>asset forfeiture</u>).
- 27 * * *
- 28 § 5707. Seizure and forfeiture of electronic, mechanical or
- other devices.
- 30 Any electronic, mechanical or other device possessed, used,

- 1 sent, distributed, manufactured, or assembled in violation of
- 2 this chapter is hereby declared to be contraband and may be
- 3 seized and forfeited to the Commonwealth in accordance with 42
- 4 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58 (relating to asset forfeiture).
- 5 § 6314. Sentencing and penalties for trafficking drugs to
- 6 minors.
- 7 * * *
- 8 (f) Forfeiture. -- Assets against which [a forfeiture
- 9 petition] an information or indictment seeking forfeiture has
- 10 been filed and is pending or against which the Commonwealth has
- 11 indicated an intention to file [a forfeiture petition] an
- 12 <u>information of indictment seeking forfeiture</u> shall not be
- 13 subject to a fine under this section.
- 14 * * *
- 15 § 6501. Scattering rubbish.
- 16 * * *
- 17 (b) Penalty.--
- 18 * * *
- 19 (5) Any vehicle, equipment or conveyance, including any
- 20 private automobile and small truck, used for the
- 21 transportation or disposal of trash, garbage or debris in the
- 22 commission of a second or subsequent offense under subsection
- 23 (a) (3) may be deemed contraband and forfeited in accordance
- with [the provisions set forth in this section] 42 Pa.C.S.
- 25 Ch. 58 (relating to asset forfeiture).
- 26 * * *
- [(d) Forfeiture.--
- 28 (1) Property subject to forfeiture under this section
- 29 may be seized by the law enforcement authority upon process
- issued by any court of common pleas having jurisdiction over

1 the property.

either:

or

- 2 (2) Property taken or detained under this section shall
 3 not be subject to replevin but is deemed to be in the custody
 4 of the law enforcement authority subject only to the orders
 5 and decrees of the court of common pleas having jurisdiction
 6 over the forfeiture proceedings and of the district attorney.
 7 When property is seized under this section, the law
 8 enforcement authority shall place the property under seal and
- 10 (i) remove the property to a place designated by it;
 - (ii) require that the district attorney take custody of the property and remove it to an appropriate location for disposition in accordance with law.
 - (3) Whenever property is forfeited under this section, the property shall be transferred to the custody of the municipal corporation. The municipal corporation shall sell any forfeited property, but the proceeds from any such sale shall be used to pay all proper expenses of the proceedings for forfeiture and sale, including expenses of seizure, maintenance of custody, advertising and court costs. The balance of the proceeds shall be used for the enforcement of this act.
 - (4) The proceedings for the forfeiture or condemnation of property, the sale of which is provided for in this section, shall be in rem, in which the Commonwealth shall be the plaintiff and the property the defendant. A petition shall be filed in the court of common pleas of the judicial district where the property is located, verified by oath or affirmation of an officer or citizen, containing the

1 following:

- (i) A description of the property seized.
 - (ii) A statement of the time and place where seized.
- 4 (iii) The owner, if known.
 - (iv) The person or persons in possession, if known.
 - (v) An allegation that the property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to this subsection and an averment of material facts upon which the forfeiture action is based.
 - (vi) A prayer for an order of forfeiture that the property be adjudged forfeited to the Commonwealth and condemned and be ordered sold according to law, unless cause be shown to the contrary.
 - (5) A copy of the petition required under paragraph (4) shall be served personally or by certified mail on the owner or upon the person or persons in possession at the time of the seizure. The copy shall have endorsed a notice, as follows:

To the Claimant of within Described Property:

You are required to file an answer to this petition,
setting forth your title in, and right to possession of,
the property within 30 days from the service hereof, and
you are also notified that, if you fail to file the
answer, a decree of forfeiture and condemnation will be
entered against the property.

The notice shall be signed by the district attorney, deputy district attorney or assistant district attorney.

(6) If the owner of the property is unknown or there was no person in possession of the property when seized or if the owner or such person or persons in possession at the time of the seizure cannot be personally served or located within the

1 jurisdiction of the court, notice of the petition shall be

2 given by the Commonwealth through an advertisement in only

3 one newspaper of general circulation published in the county

where the property shall have been seized, once a week for 4

two successive weeks. No other advertisement of any sort

shall be necessary, any other law to the contrary

7 notwithstanding. The notice shall contain a statement of the

seizure of the property with a description of the property

9 and the place and date of seizure and shall direct any

claimants to the property to file a claim on or before a date 10

given in the notice, which date shall not be less than 30

12 days from the date of the first publication. If no claims are

filed within 30 days of publication, the property shall

14 summarily forfeit to the Commonwealth.

- (7) For purposes of this section, the owner or other such person cannot be found in the jurisdiction of the court if:
- (i) a copy of the petition is mailed to the last known address by certified mail and is returned without delivery;
 - (ii) personal service is attempted once but cannot be made at the last known address; and
 - a copy of the petition is left at the last known address.
- The notice provisions of this section are 26 automatically waived when the owner, without good cause, 27 fails to appear in court in response to a subpoena on the 28 underlying criminal charges. Forty-five days after such a 29 failure to appear, if good cause has not been demonstrated, the property shall summarily forfeit to the Commonwealth.

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- 1 (9) Upon the filing of a claim for the property setting 2 forth a right of possession, the case shall be deemed at 3 issue and a time shall be fixed for the hearing.
 - (10) At the time of the hearing, if the Commonwealth produces evidence that the property in question was unlawfully used, possessed or otherwise subject to forfeiture under this section, the burden shall be upon the claimant to show:
 - (i) That the claimant is the owner of the property or the holder of a chattel mortgage or contract of conditional sale thereon.
 - (ii) That the claimant lawfully acquired the property.
 - (iii) That it was not unlawfully used or possessed by him. In the event that it shall appear that the property was unlawfully used or possessed by a person other than the claimant, then the claimant shall show that the unlawful use or possession was without his knowledge or consent. Such absence of knowledge or consent must be reasonable under the circumstances presented.
 - (11) If a person claiming the ownership of or right of possession to or claiming to be the holder of a chattel mortgage or contract of conditional sale upon the property, the disposition of which is provided for in this section, prior to the sale presents a petition to the court alleging over the property lawful ownership, right of possession, a lien or reservation of title and if, upon public hearing, due notice of which having been given to the district attorney, the claimant shall prove by competent evidence to the

- 1 satisfaction of the court that the property was lawfully
- 2 acquired, possessed and used by him or, it appearing that the
- 3 property was unlawfully used by a person other than the
- 4 claimant, that the unlawful use was without the claimant's
- 5 knowledge or consent, then the court may order the property
- 6 returned or delivered to the claimant. Such absence of
- 7 knowledge or consent must be reasonable under the
- 8 circumstances presented. Otherwise, it shall be retained for
- 9 official use or sold in accordance with paragraph (4).]
- 10 * * *
- 11 § 7508. Drug trafficking sentencing and penalties.
- 12 * * *
- 13 (e) Forfeiture. -- Assets against which [a forfeiture
- 14 petition] an information or indictment seeking forfeiture has
- 15 been filed and is pending or against which the Commonwealth has
- 16 indicated an intention to file [a forfeiture petition] an
- 17 information or indictment seeking forfeiture shall not be
- 18 subject to a fine. Nothing in this section shall prevent a fine
- 19 from being imposed on assets which have been subject to an
- 20 unsuccessful forfeiture [petition] proceeding.
- 21 * * *
- 22 § 7707. Loss of property rights to Commonwealth.
- [(a) Forfeitures generally. -- The following shall be subject
- 24 to forfeiture to the Commonwealth, and no property right shall
- 25 exist in them:
- 26 (1) Any tool, implement or instrumentality, including,
- 27 but not limited to, a vehicle or vehicle part used or
- possessed in connection with any violation of this chapter.
- 29 (2) All materials, products and equipment of any kind
- 30 which are used or intended for use in violation of this

1 chapter.

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- 2 (3) All books, records, microfilm, tapes and data which 3 are used or intended for use in violation of this chapter.
 - (4) All money, negotiable instruments, securities or other things of value used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of this chapter and all proceeds traceable to any transactions in violation of this chapter.
 - (5) All real property used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of this chapter, including structures or other improvements thereon and including any right, title and interest in the whole or any lot or tract of land and any appurtenances or improvements which are used or intended to be used in any manner or part to commit or to facilitate the commission of a violation of this chapter.
- 15 (b) Exceptions.--
- 16 (1) No property shall be forfeited under this section,
 17 to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any
 18 act or omission established by the owner to have been
 19 committed or omitted without the knowledge or consent of that
 20 owner.
- 21 (2) No valid lien or encumbrance on real property shall 22 be subject to forfeiture or impairment under this paragraph. 23 A lien which is fraudulent or intended to avoid forfeiture
- 24 under this section shall be invalid.
- 25 (c) Process and seizure. -- Property subject to forfeiture
- 26 under this chapter may be seized by the law enforcement
- 27 authority upon process issued by a court of common pleas having
- 28 jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process may be
- 29 made if:
- 30 (1) the seizure is incident to an arrest or a search

- 1 warrant or inspection under 75 Pa.C.S. § 6308 (relating to
- 2 investigation by police officers) or any other administrative
- 3 inspection;
- 4 (2) the property subject to seizure has been the subject
- of a proper judgment in favor of the Commonwealth in a
- 6 criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding under this
- 7 chapter;
- 8 (3) there is probable cause to believe that the property
- 9 is dangerous to health or safety; or
- 10 (4) there is probable cause to believe that the property
- has been used or is intended to be used in violation of this
- 12 chapter.
- 13 (d) Seizure without process.--In the event seizure without
- 14 process occurs as provided in this chapter, proceeding for the
- 15 issuance thereof shall be instituted forthwith.
- 16 (e) Custody of property. -- Property taken or detained under
- 17 this section shall not be subject to replevin but is deemed to
- 18 be in the custody of the law enforcement authority, subject only
- 19 to the orders and decrees of the court of common pleas having
- 20 jurisdiction over the forfeiture proceedings and of the district
- 21 attorney or the Office of Attorney General. When property is
- 22 seized under this chapter, the law enforcement authority shall
- 23 place the property under seal and either:
- 24 (1) remove the property to a place designated by it; or
- 25 (2) require that the district attorney or the Office of
- 26 Attorney General take custody of the property and remove it
- 27 to an appropriate location for disposition in accordance with
- 28 law.
- 29 (f) Use of property held in custody.--
- 30 (1) Whenever property is forfeited under this chapter,

the property shall be transferred to:

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- 2 (i) the custody of the district attorney, if the law 3 enforcement authority seizing the property has local or 4 county jurisdiction; or
 - (ii) the Office of Attorney General, if the law enforcement authority seizing the property has Statewide jurisdiction.
- 8 (2) The district attorney or the Office of Attorney 9 General, where appropriate, may:
 - (i) Retain the property for official use.
- Sell any forfeited property which is not 11 12 required to be destroyed by law and which is not harmful 13 to the public, but the proceeds from any such sale must 14 be used to pay all proper expenses of the proceeding for forfeiture and sale, including expenses of seizure, 15 maintenance of custody, advertising and court costs. The 16 17 balance of the proceeds shall be dealt with in accordance with subsections (g) and (h). 18
- 19 Use of cash, property or proceeds of property. -- Cash or 20 proceeds of forfeited property transferred to the custody of the 21 district attorney under subsection (f) shall be placed in the operating fund of the county in which the district attorney is 22 23 elected. The appropriate county authority shall immediately 24 release from the operating fund, without restriction, a like 25 amount for the use of the district attorney in enforcing the 26 criminal laws of this Commonwealth. The entity having budgetary control shall not anticipate future forfeitures or proceeds from 27 28 such forfeitures in adoption and approval of the budget for the
- 30 (h) Distribution of property among law enforcement

district attorney.

- 1 authorities.--If both State and municipal law enforcement
- 2 authorities were substantially involved in effecting the
- 3 seizure, the court having jurisdiction over the forfeiture
- 4 proceedings shall equitably distribute the property between the
- 5 district attorney and the Office of Attorney General.
- 6 (i) Annual audit of forfeited property. -- A county shall
- 7 provide, through the controller, board of auditors or other
- 8 appropriate auditor and the district attorney, an annual audit
- 9 of all forfeited property and proceeds obtained under this
- 10 section. The audit shall not be made public but shall be
- 11 submitted to the Office of Attorney General. The county shall
- 12 report all forfeited property and proceeds obtained under this
- 13 section and the disposition thereof to the Office of Attorney
- 14 General by September 30 of each year.
- 15 (j) Annual report; confidential information regarding
- 16 property. -- The Office of Attorney General shall annually submit
- 17 a report to the Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the
- 18 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, the
- 19 Judiciary Committee of the Senate and the Judiciary Committee of
- 20 the House of Representatives specifying the forfeited property
- 21 or proceeds thereof obtained under this section. The report
- 22 shall give an account of all proceeds derived from the sale of
- 23 forfeited property and the use made of unsold forfeited
- 24 property. The Office of Attorney General shall adopt procedures
- 25 and guidelines governing the release of information by the
- 26 district attorney to protect the confidentiality of forfeited
- 27 property or proceeds used in ongoing enforcement activities.
- 28 (k) Proceeds and appropriations. -- The proceeds or future
- 29 proceeds from forfeited property under this chapter shall be in
- 30 addition to any appropriation made to the Office of Attorney

- 1 General.] Forfeiture of property shall be authorized for
- 2 violation of this chapter and conducted in accordance with 42
- 3 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58 (relating to asset forfeiture).
- 4 Section 5. Section 7708 of Title 18 is repealed:
- 5 [§ 7708. Procedure with respect to seized property subject to
- 6 liens and rights of lienholders.
- 7 (a) General procedure. -- The proceedings for the forfeiture
- 8 or condemnation of property, the sale of which is provided for
- 9 under this chapter, shall be in rem in which the Commonwealth
- 10 shall be the plaintiff and the property the defendant. The
- 11 Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure shall apply to all
- 12 forfeiture proceedings brought under this chapter. A petition
- 13 shall be filed in the court of common pleas of the judicial
- 14 district where the property is located, verified by oath or
- 15 affirmation of an officer or citizen, containing the following:
- 16 (1) A description of the property seized.
- 17 (2) A statement of the time and place where seized.
- 18 (3) The owner, if known.
- 19 (4) The person or persons in possession, if known.
- 20 (5) An allegation that the property is subject to
- 21 forfeiture under section 7707 (relating to loss of property
- rights to Commonwealth) and an averment of material facts
- 23 upon which the forfeiture action is based.
- 24 (6) A prayer for an order of forfeiture that the
- 25 property be adjudged forfeited to the Commonwealth and
- 26 condemned and be ordered sold according to law unless cause
- 27 be shown to the contrary.
- 28 (b) Notice to property owners. -- A copy of the petition
- 29 required under subsection (a) shall be served personally or by
- 30 certified mail on the owner or upon the person or persons in

- 1 possession at the time of the seizure. The copy shall have
- 2 endorsed a notice as follows:
- 3 To the claimant of within described property: You are
- 4 required to file an answer to this petition, stating your
- 5 title in and right to possession of the property within 30
- days from the service of this petition, and you are also
- 7 notified that, if you fail to file an answer, a decree of
- 8 forfeiture and condemnation will be entered against the
- 9 property.
- 10 The notice shall be signed by the Attorney General, Deputy
- 11 Attorney General, district attorney, deputy district attorney or
- 12 assistant district attorney.
- 13 (c) Substitute notice.--
- 14 (1) If the owner of the property is unknown or there was
- no person in possession of the property when seized or if the
- owner or such person or persons in possession at the time of
- 17 the seizure cannot be personally served or located within the
- 18 jurisdiction of the court, notice of the petition shall be
- 19 given by the Commonwealth through an advertisement in only
- one newspaper of general circulation published in the county
- 21 where the property was seized once a week for two successive
- weeks. No other advertisement of any sort shall be necessary,
- any other law to the contrary notwithstanding.
- 24 (2) The notice shall:
- 25 (i) contain a statement of the seizure of the
- 26 property with a description of the property and the place
- and date of seizure; and
- 28 (ii) direct any claimants to the property to file a
- 29 claim on or before a date given in the notice, which date
- 30 shall not be less than 30 days from the date of the first

- 1 publication.
- 2 (3) If no claims are filed within 30 days of
- 3 publication, the property shall summarily forfeit to the
- 4 Commonwealth.
- 5 (d) Property owners not in jurisdiction. -- For purposes of
- 6 this section, the owner or other such person cannot be found in
- 7 the jurisdiction of the court if:
- 8 (1) A copy of the petition is mailed to the last known
- 9 address by certified mail and is returned without a delivery.
- 10 (2) A personal service is attempted once but cannot be
- 11 made at the last known address.
- 12 (3) A copy of the petition is left at the last known
- 13 address.
- 14 (e) Notice automatically waived.--
- 15 (1) The notice provisions of this section are
- automatically waived when the owner, without good cause,
- fails to appear in court in response to a subpoena on the
- 18 underlying criminal charges.
- 19 (2) Forty-five days after such a failure to appear, if
- good cause has not been demonstrated, the property shall
- 21 summarily forfeit to the Commonwealth.
- 22 (f) Preservation of the property subject for forfeiture. --
- 23 (1) Upon application of the Commonwealth, the court may
- enter a restraining order or injunction, require the
- execution of a satisfactory performance bond or take any
- other action to preserve the availability of property
- 27 described in section 7707 for forfeiture under this section
- 28 either:
- 29 (i) upon the filing of an information or an
- indictment charging a violation of this chapter for which

- criminal forfeiture may be ordered under this chapter and alleging that the property with respect to which the order is sought would be subject to forfeiture; or
 - (ii) prior to the filing of such an indictment or information if, after notice to persons appearing to have an interest in the property and an opportunity for a hearing, the court determines that:
 - (A) There is a substantial probability that the Commonwealth will prevail on the issue of forfeiture and that failure to enter the order will result in the property being destroyed, removed from the jurisdiction of the court or otherwise made unavailable for forfeiture.
 - (B) The need to preserve the availability of the property through the entry of the requested order outweighs the hardship on any party against whom the order is to be entered.
 - (2) An order entered under this subsection shall be effective for not more than 90 days unless extended by the court for good cause shown or unless an indictment or information described in paragraph (1)(i) has been filed.
 - (g) Temporary restraining order.--
 - (1) A temporary restraining order under subsection (f) may be entered upon application of the Commonwealth without notice or opportunity for a hearing when an information or indictment has not yet been filed with respect to the property if the Commonwealth demonstrates that:
 - (i) there is probable cause to believe that the property with respect to which the order is sought would be subject to forfeiture under this chapter; and

- 1 (ii) the provision of notice will jeopardize the 2 availability of the property for forfeiture.
- 3 (2) Such temporary order shall expire not more than ten 4 days after the date on which it is entered, unless:
 - (i) extended for good cause shown; or
- 6 (ii) the party against whom it is entered consents
 7 to an extension for a longer period.
- 8 (3) A hearing requested concerning an order entered
 9 under this subsection shall be held at the earliest possible
 10 time and prior to the expiration of the temporary order.
- 11 (h) Hearing regarding property; rules of evidence.--The
- 12 court may receive and consider at a hearing held under
- 13 subsection (f) or (g) evidence and information that would be
- 14 inadmissible under the rules of evidence.
- 15 (i) Hearing time set. -- Upon the filing of a claim for the
- 16 property setting forth a right of possession, the case shall be
- 17 deemed at issue, and a time shall be fixed for the hearing.
- 18 (j) Owner's burden of proof. -- At the time of the hearing, if
- 19 the Commonwealth produces evidence that the property in question
- 20 was unlawfully used, possessed or otherwise subject to
- 21 forfeiture under section 7706 (relating to presumptions), the
- 22 burden shall be upon the claimant to show that:
- 23 (1) The claimant is the owner of the property or the
- 24 holder of a chattel mortgage or contract of conditional sale
- thereon.

- 26 (2) The claimant lawfully acquired the property.
- 27 (3) It was not unlawfully used or possessed by the
- claimant. In the event that it shall appear that the property
- was unlawfully used or possessed by a person other than the
- 30 claimant, then the claimant must show that the unlawful use

- or possession was without the claimant's knowledge or
- consent. Such absence of knowledge or consent must be
- 3 reasonable under the circumstances presented.
- 4 (k) Court-ordered release of property.--
- 5 (1) If a person claiming the ownership of or right of
- 6 possession to or claiming to be the holder of a chattel
- 7 mortgage or contract of conditional sale upon the property,
- 8 the disposition of which is provided for in this section,
- 9 prior to the sale presents a petition to the court alleging
- 10 over the property lawful ownership, right of possession, a
- lien or reservation of title and if, upon public hearing, due
- notice of which having been given to the Office of Attorney
- General or the district attorney, the claimant proves by
- competent evidence to the satisfaction of the court:
- 15 (i) that the property was lawfully acquired,
- 16 possessed and used by him; or
- 17 (ii) if it appears that the property was unlawfully
- 18 used by a person other than the claimant, that the
- unlawful use was without the claimant's knowledge or
- 20 consent,
- 21 then the court may order the property returned or delivered
- 22 to the claimant.
- 23 (2) Such absence of knowledge or consent must be
- reasonable under the circumstances presented. Otherwise, the
- 25 property shall be retained for official use or sold in
- accordance with section 7707(f).
- 27 Section 6. Section 927 of Title 30 is amended to read:
- 28 § 927. Forfeiture of fish and devices.
- 29 (a) General rule. -- A person convicted of an offense under
- 30 this title shall forfeit any fish seized under section 901(6)

- 1 (relating to powers and duties of waterways patrolmen and
- 2 deputies) and any device confiscated under this title.
- 3 Forfeitures shall be conducted in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. Ch.
- 4 58 (relating to asset forfeiture).
- 5 [(b) Disposition of confiscated property.--Any property
- 6 confiscated by the commission under this title shall be sold or
- 7 otherwise disposed of by the executive director. These
- 8 dispositions shall be recorded on the books of the commission.]
- 9 Section 7. Title 42 is amended by adding a chapter to read:
- 10 CHAPTER 58
- 11 ASSET FORFEITURE
- 12 Sec.
- 13 5801. Scope of criminal asset forfeiture.
- 14 5802. Criminal asset forfeiture in general.
- 15 5803. Process for criminal asset forfeiture.
- 16 5804. Process for third-party interest holders.
- 17 5805. Interaction with the Federal Government.
- 18 § 5801. Scope of criminal asset forfeiture.
- 19 (a) Certain forfeitures exempted. -- Forfeitures of property
- 20 shall be conducted in accordance with this chapter, except for
- 21 forfeitures authorized by:
- 22 (1) Section 3 of the act of July 8, 1978 (P.L.792,
- No.140), known as the Public Employee Pension Forfeiture Act.
- 24 (2) Section 6 of the act of April 6, 1980 (P.L.102,
- No.39), entitled "An act restricting the acquisition by
- 26 certain aliens of an interest in agricultural lands."
- 27 (3) Sections 207, 211 and 505 of the act of December 7,
- 28 <u>1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law.</u>
- 29 (4) 18 Pa.C.S. § 3021 (relating to asset forfeiture);
- 30 (5) 18 Pa.C.S. § 5511 (relating to cruelty to animals);

- 1 (6) 18 Pa.C.S. § 6110.1 (relating to possession of
- firearm by minor);
- 3 (7) 18 Pa.C.S. § 6321 (relating to transmission of
- 4 <u>sexually explicit images by minor);</u>
- 5 (8) 27 Pa.C.S. § 6208 (relating to penalties);
- 6 (9) 37 Pa.C.S. § 511 (relating to criminal penalties);
- 7 (10) 42 Pa.C.S. § 6801.1 (relating to terrorism
- 8 forfeiture);
- 9 (11) 75 Pa.C.S. § 9405 (relating to forfeitures; process
- and procedure).
- 11 (b) Contraband per se exempted. -- Nothing in this chapter
- 12 <u>shall be construed to apply to the forfeiture of contraband per</u>
- 13 se, the possession of which is inherently unlawful. Such
- 14 <u>forfeiture includes, but is not limited to, forfeiture of the</u>
- 15 following:
- 16 (1) items bearing a counterfeit mark under 18 Pa.C.S. §
- 17 4119 (relating to trademark counterfeiting).
- 18 (2) liquor, alcohol or malt or brewed beverages
- illegally manufactured or possessed under section 601 of the
- act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor
- 21 Code.
- 22 (3) unlawfully stamped cigarettes under section 307 of
- the act of December 30, 2003 (P.L.441, No.64), known as the
- 24 Tobacco Product Manufacturer Directory Act.
- 25 (4) unstamped cigarettes under section 1285 of the act
- of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code
- of 1971.
- 28 (c) Conflicting law superseded. -- The procedures in this
- 29 chapter shall supersede any conflicting provisions of other
- 30 State laws.

- 1 (d) Preemption. -- This chapter preempts any local ordinance
- 2 or regulation insofar as it is inconsistent with this chapter,
- 3 <u>irrespective of the effective date of the ordinance or</u>
- 4 <u>regulation</u>.
- 5 § 5802. Criminal asset forfeiture in general.
- 6 (a) Criminal in form. -- Unless otherwise provided,
- 7 <u>forfeitures under this chapter are criminal.</u>
- 8 <u>(b) Forfeiture disfavored.--Forfeitures are not favored</u>
- 9 <u>under State law and any ambiguity in this chapter shall be</u>
- 10 strictly construed against the Commonwealth.
- 11 (c) Forfeitures generally.--
- 12 (1) After a person is convicted of an offense for which
- forfeiture is expressly authorized as a penalty, the
- following shall be subject to forfeiture to the Commonwealth
- and no property right shall exist in them:
- (i) The convicted person's property constituting or
- derived from any proceeds obtained directly from the
- 18 commission of the offense.
- 19 (ii) The convicted person's property that:
- 20 (A) Was used or intended to be used to commit or
- 21 facilitate the commission of the offense.
- 22 (B) Bears a significant relationship to the
- offense.
- 24 (2) No additional penalties, including, but not limited
- 25 to, personal money judgments, shall be authorized under this
- 26 chapter except as provided by section 5803(k) (relating to
- 27 process for criminal asset forfeiture). Any restitution made
- to a victim using property forfeited under this chapter shall
- 29 serve to satisfy in part or in whole any restitution order
- 30 against the convicted person.

1	(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
2	prevent property from being forfeited by the terms of a plea
3	agreement approved by a court or of any other agreement of
4	the parties to a criminal proceeding. Forfeiture by agreement
5	shall be subject to the requirements of section 5804
6	(relating to process for third-party interest holders).
7	(d) Claims for damage, loss or impermissible sale of
8	property After a finding under this chapter that seized
9	property is not subject to forfeiture, the property owner may
10	bring a claim against the law enforcement authority that had
11	custody of the property and lost, damaged or impermissibly sold
12	<u>it.</u>
13	(e) Use of property held in custody
14	(1) Whenever property is forfeited under this chapter
15	and after all ancillary proceedings under section 5804 are
16	concluded, the property shall be transferred to the custody
17	of the district attorney, if the law enforcement authority
18	seizing the property has local or county jurisdiction, or the
19	Attorney General, if the law enforcement authority seizing
20	the property has Statewide jurisdiction.
21	(2) The district attorney or the Attorney General, as
22	applicable, shall sell any forfeited property that is not
23	required to be destroyed by law and is not harmful to the
24	public.
25	(3) Sale of forfeited property to an employee of the
26	district attorney or Attorney General, a person related to an
27	employee by blood or marriage or another law enforcement
28	authority is prohibited.

30

(4) The proceeds from sale shall be used to pay all

reasonable expenses related to the maintenance of custody and

- 1 <u>sale of such property. The balance of the proceeds shall be</u>
- 2 subject to subsection (f).
- 3 (f) Use of cash or proceeds or property. -- Cash or proceeds
- 4 <u>of forfeited property transferred under subsection (e) shall be</u>
- 5 <u>distributed in the following order:</u>
- 6 (1) To satisfy any restitution orders for victims of the
- 7 underlying offense.
- 8 (2) To pay any liabilities owed by the Commonwealth to
- 9 defendants or claimants who substantially prevail under
- 10 subsection (1).
- 11 <u>(3) Either:</u>
- 12 (i) if, in the custody of the Attorney General, to
- the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General
- 14 <u>Fund; or</u>
- 15 (ii) if, in the custody of the district attorney, to
- the operating fund of the county in which the district
- 17 attorney is elected.
- 18 (q) Distribution of property among law enforcement
- 19 authorities.--If both municipal and State law enforcement
- 20 authorities were substantially involved in effecting the
- 21 seizure, the court having jurisdiction over the forfeiture
- 22 proceedings shall equitably distribute the property between the
- 23 district attorney and the Attorney General who shall dispose of
- 24 the property in accordance with subsections (e) and (f).
- 25 (h) Annual audit of forfeited property. -- A county of this
- 26 Commonwealth shall provide, through the controller, board of
- 27 <u>auditors or other appropriate auditor and the district attorney</u>,
- 28 an annual audit of all forfeited property and proceeds obtained
- 29 under this section and the disposition thereof, as well as of
- 30 all fees awarded under subsection (1). The audit shall be

- 1 <u>submitted to the Office of Attorney General by September 30 of</u>
- 2 each year.
- 3 (i) Annual report. -- The Attorney General shall annually
- 4 <u>submit a report to the Appropriations Committee and Judiciary</u>
- 5 Committee of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee and
- 6 Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives describing
- 7 the forfeited property or proceeds thereof obtained under this
- 8 section, as well as the fees awarded under subsection (1). The
- 9 report shall include an accounting of all proceeds derived from
- 10 the sale of forfeited property.
- 11 (j) Public access. -- All accounting and audit records
- 12 generated under subsections (h) and (i) shall be subject to the
- 13 act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-
- 14 Know Law.
- 15 (k) Taxpayer standing. -- A taxpayer of this Commonwealth has
- 16 standing to challenge in court any action contrary to subsection
- 17 (e), (f), (q), (h), (i) or (j).
- 18 (1) Fee shifting. -- In any forfeiture proceeding under this
- 19 chapter in which the defendant or claimant substantially
- 20 prevails, the Commonwealth shall be liable for:
- 21 (1) Reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs
- reasonably incurred by the defendant or claimant.
- 23 (2) Postjudgment interest.
- 24 (3) In cases involving currency or other negotiable
- 25 instruments:
- 26 (i) Interest actually paid to the Commonwealth, from
- 27 the date of seizure or arrest of the property, that
- 28 results from the investment of the property in an
- 29 <u>interest-bearing account or instrument.</u>
- 30 (ii) An imputed amount of interest that the

Τ	currency, instruments or proceeds would have earned at
2	the rate applicable to the 30-day Treasury Bill, for any
3	period during which no interest was paid, not including
4	any period when the property reasonably was in use as
5	evidence in an official proceeding or in conducting
6	scientific tests for the purpose of collecting evidence,
7	commencing 15 days after the property was seized by a
8	State law enforcement authority or was turned over to a
9	State law enforcement authority by a Federal law
10	enforcement authority.
11	§ 5803. Process for criminal asset forfeiture.
12	(a) Seizure
13	(1) Property subject to forfeiture under this chapter
14	may be seized by a law enforcement authority upon process
15	issued by any court of common pleas having jurisdiction.
16	(2) Seizure without process may be made if:
17	(i) the seizure is incident to an arrest or a search
18	under a search warrant or inspection under an
19	administrative inspection warrant and there is probable
20	cause to believe that the property is subject to
21	forfeiture under section 5802(c)(1) (relating to criminal
22	asset forfeiture in general);
23	(ii) the property subject to seizure has been the
24	subject of a prior judgment in favor of the Commonwealth
25	in a criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding under
26	this chapter; or
27	(iii) there is probable cause to believe that the
28	property is subject to forfeiture under section 5802(c)
29	(1) and process or delay is likely to result in the
30	destruction or removal of the property or in its

- 1 <u>otherwise being made unavailable for forfeiture.</u>
- 2 (b) Seizure of real property. -- Absent exigent circumstances,
- 3 no real property subject to forfeiture shall be seized unless
- 4 the Commonwealth first provides property owners and occupants
- 5 with notice and an opportunity for a hearing. The hearing shall
- 6 be conducted in accordance with subsections (d) and (e).
- 7 (c) Receipt for seized property. --When property is seized,
- 8 the law enforcement authority shall provide an itemized receipt
- 9 to the person in possession of the property or, in the absence
- 10 of any person, leave a receipt in the place where the property
- 11 was found, if reasonably possible. The receipt shall provide
- 12 <u>notice of the right of interest holders to move for the return</u>
- 13 of seized property under subsections (d) and (e).
- 14 (d) Pretrial motion for return of seized property. -- When
- 15 property has been seized for forfeiture and the defendant or
- 16 <u>another putative interest holder in the property files a</u>
- 17 pretrial motion for its return, the property shall promptly be
- 18 returned unless the Commonwealth proves that there is probable
- 19 cause that the property is subject to forfeiture.
- 20 (e) Hardship release of property subject to forfeiture. --
- 21 When the defendant or another putative interest holder in the
- 22 property files a motion for the hardship release of property,
- 23 the court shall order the release of seized property from the
- 24 seizing law enforcement authority pending the final
- 25 determination of forfeiture, if the putative interest holder
- 26 establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that:
- 27 (1) The putative interest holder has a possessory
- interest in the property.
- 29 (2) Continued possession by the law enforcement
- 30 authority pending the final disposition of the forfeiture

Τ	proceedings will cause substantial hardship to the interest
2	holder, such as:
3	(i) preventing the functioning of a legitimate
4	business;
5	(ii) preventing an individual from working;
6	(iii) preventing a minor child or student from
7	attending school;
8	(iv) preventing or hindering an individual from
9	receiving necessary medical care;
_0	(v) hindering the care of an elderly or disabled
1	dependent child or adult;
2	(vi) leaving an individual homeless; or
_3	(vii) any other condition that the court determines
L 4	causes a substantial hardship;
.5	(3) The hardship from the continued possession by the
L 6	law enforcement authority of the seized property outweighs
_7	the risk that the property will be unlawfully used, destroyed
8 .	or removed from the jurisdiction of the court or otherwise
_9	made unavailable for forfeiture if it is returned to the
20	owner during the pendency of the proceeding.
21	(f) Initiation of forfeiture
22	(1) The proceedings for forfeiture of property shall be
23	tried in the same proceeding as the criminal case concerning
24	the determination of the defendant's guilt or innocence for
25	the underlying offense, unless the defendant moves to
26	bifurcate the trial of the forfeiture from the trial of the
27	underlying criminal case.
28	(2) An information or an indictment charging the
29	defendant with an offense shall include notice to the
30	defendant that the Commonwealth will seek forfeiture as part

Т	or any sentence. The notice shall include.
2	(i) An itemized list of the specific property
3	subject to forfeiture, including, but not limited to, the
4	address of any real property, the exact dollar amount of
5	any money, negotiable instrument or security and the
6	make, model, year and license plate number of any
7	vehicle.
8	(ii) A statement of the time and place of the
9	offense.
10	(iii) A description of the particular use of the
11	property in the commission of the offense or derivation
12	therefrom.
13	(g) Forfeiture phase of criminal proceeding After a person
14	is convicted on any count in an indictment or information for
15	which forfeiture is sought, the Commonwealth must establish at a
16	forfeiture hearing by clear and convincing evidence that the
17	property is forfeitable under section 5802(c)(1) before the
18	court enters a preliminary order of forfeiture.
19	(h) Extent of forfeitable interest If the court determines
20	it is in the interests of judicial economy, the court or jury
21	may determine the extent of the convicted person's forfeitable
22	interest in the property before a preliminary order of
23	forfeiture is entered. The determination shall be subject to
24	amendments under section 5804 (relating to process for third-
25	<pre>party interest holders).</pre>
26	(i) Right to trial by jury
27	(1) At the forfeiture hearing, the defendant shall have
28	the right to trial by jury of the forfeiture.
29	(2) The defendant may waive this right while preserving
30	the right to trial by jury of the offense charged or other

1	sentencing issues.
2	(3) Alternatively, the defendant may preserve this right
3	while waiving the right to trial by jury of the offense
4	charged or other sentencing issues.
5	(j) Excessive fines
6	(1) In order to enter a preliminary order of forfeiture
7	under section 5802(c)(1)(ii), the court must make a
8	determination that the forfeiture is not grossly
9	disproportional to the gravity of the underlying offense.
10	(2) The Commonwealth shall have the burden of
11	establishing proportionality by clear and convincing
12	evidence.
13	(3) The value of property forfeited shall be determined
14	by considering, among other factors:
15	(i) Its market value.
16	(ii) Its subjective value to the defendant and the
17	<pre>defendant's family members.</pre>
18	(4) The gravity of the offense shall be determined by
19	<pre>considering, among other factors:</pre>
20	(i) The penalty imposed as compared to the maximum
21	penalty available for the offense upon which the
22	forfeiture is based.
23	(ii) Whether the offense was isolated or part of a
24	pattern of criminal conduct.
25	(iii) The specific harm resulting from the offense
26	upon which the forfeiture is based.
27	(k) Forfeiture of substitute property
28	(1) After entering a preliminary order of forfeiture,
29	the court may order the forfeiture of substitute property up
30	to the value of the property subject to the order, if the

1	Commonwealth establishes by clear and convincing evidence
2	<pre>that:</pre>
3	(i) The convicted person intentionally transferred,
4	sold or deposited the property to avoid the court's
5	jurisdiction.
6	(ii) The substitute property is owned solely by the
7	convicted person.
8	(2) No codefendant shall be subject to joint and several
9	liability for forfeiture judgments owed by other defendants
10	under this subsection.
11	§ 5804. Process for third-party interest holders.
12	(a) Notice to third parties After the court enters a
13	preliminary order of forfeiture, the Commonwealth shall send
14	notice to any person who reasonably appears to be a potential
15	claimant with standing to contest the forfeiture in an ancillary
16	proceeding under subsection (i). Potential claimants include,
17	<pre>but are not limited to:</pre>
18	(1) Partial or joint owners of the property subject to
19	the preliminary order of forfeiture.
20	(2) Holders of a bona fide security interest in the
21	property subject to the preliminary order of forfeiture.
22	(3) Bona fide purchasers for value of the property
23	subject to the preliminary order of forfeiture.
24	(4) Obligees of court-ordered child support from the
25	convicted person.
26	(5) Claimants of employment-related compensation from
27	the convicted person.
28	(b) Contents of notice Notice shall include:
29	(1) A description of the specific property subject to
30	the preliminary order of forfeiture including, but not

1 limited to, the address of any real property, the exact dollar amount of any money, negotiable instrument or 2 securities and the make, model, year and license plate number 3 of any vehicle. 4 5 (2) A statement that either: (i) a petition contesting forfeiture must be filed 6 within 60 days of the date of receipt of certified mail 7 or personal service; or 8 9 (ii) in the case the service fails, a petition 10 contesting forfeiture must be filed within 60 days of the date of final publication of substitute notice; 11 12 (3) A statement describing the required contents of a petition contesting forfeiture as set forth in subsection 13 14 (h). (4) The name and contact information for the 15 Commonwealth attorney to be served with the petition. 16 17 (5) The signature of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, district attorney, deputy district attorney 18 19 or assistant district attorney. 20 (c) Means of serving notice. -- Notice shall be served 21 personally or by certified mail on the potential claimant. 22 (d) Substitute notice. -- If a potential claimant cannot be 23 personally served or located within the jurisdiction of the 24 court, notice of the petition shall be provided by the Commonwealth through an advertisement reasonably calculated to 25 26 provide notice to the potential claimant: 27 (1) in a newspaper of general circulation published in 28 the county where the property was seized, once a week for two 29 successive weeks; and (2) on the publicly accessible Internet website of the 30

- 1 prosecuting attorney for a period of two weeks.
- 2 (e) Potential claimants not in jurisdiction. -- For purposes
- 3 of this section, it shall be deemed that a potential claimant
- 4 cannot be located in the jurisdiction of the court if:
- 5 (1) A copy of the petition is mailed to the potential
- 6 <u>claimant's last known address by certified mail and is</u>
- 7 <u>returned without delivery.</u>
- 8 (2) Personal service is attempted once, but cannot be
- 9 <u>made at the last known address.</u>
- 10 (3) A copy of the petition is left at the last known
- 11 <u>address.</u>
- 12 (f) Proof of notice. -- The Commonwealth shall file proof of
- 13 <u>notice with the court. No forfeiture order shall be final until</u>
- 14 the court finds that such proof satisfies the notice
- 15 requirements under subsections (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).
- 16 (g) Petitioning for hearing. -- A person, other than the
- 17 defendant, asserting a legal interest in property subject to a
- 18 preliminary order of forfeiture under section 5803(g) (relating
- 19 to process for criminal asset forfeiture) may, within 60 days of
- 20 the date of receipt of certified mail or personal service or, in
- 21 the case such service fails, the date of final publication of
- 22 substitute notice, petition the court for a hearing to
- 23 adjudicate the validity of the person's alleged interest in the
- 24 property.
- 25 (h) Contents of third-party claimant petition. -- The petition
- 26 shall:
- 27 <u>(1) Be signed by the petitioner under penalty of</u>
- 28 perjury.
- 29 (2) Describe the nature and extent of the petitioner's
- 30 right, title or interest in the property, the time and

Τ	circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right,
2	title or interest in the property and any additional facts
3	supporting the petitioner's claim.
4	(3) Identify the relief sought, which may include, but
5	<pre>need not be limited to:</pre>
6	(i) return of the petitioner's property;
7	(ii) reimbursement for the petitioner's legal
8	interest in the forfeited property;
9	(iii) severance of the petitioner's property from
0	the forfeited property;
1	(iv) retention of the property by the petitioner
2	subject to a lien in favor of the State to the extent of
3	the forfeitable interest;
4	(v) any relief the court deems appropriate and just.
5	(i) Ancillary proceeding in general
5	(1) If a third party claimant timely files a petition
7	asserting a legal interest in property to be forfeited, the
}	court shall conduct an ancillary proceeding, no later than
)	four months after entry of the preliminary order of
	forfeiture. The hearing shall be a civil proceeding and the
	petitioner shall have a right to a jury trial.
	(2) The hearing on the petition shall, to the extent
	practicable and consistent with the interests of justice, be
	held within 30 days of the filing of the petition. The court
<u> </u>	may consolidate the hearing on the petition with a hearing on
5	any other petition filed under this subsection related to the
7	same underlying offense.
3	(3) At the hearing, the petitioner may testify and
9	present evidence and witnesses on the petitioner's own
0	behalf, and cross-examine witnesses who appear at the

1	hearing. The Commonwealth may present evidence and witnesses
2	in rebuttal and in defense of its claim to forfeit the
3	property and may cross-examine witnesses who appear at the
4	hearing. In addition to testimony and evidence presented at
5	the hearing, the court shall consider any relevant portions
6	of the record of the criminal case that resulted in the order
7	of forfeiture.
8	(4) If, after the hearing, the court determines that the
9	petitioner has established by a preponderance of the evidence
10	<pre>that:</pre>
11	(i) the petitioner has a legal right, title or
12	interest in the property and such right, title or
13	interest renders the preliminary order of forfeiture
14	invalid in whole or in part because the right, title or
15	interest was vested in the petitioner rather than the
16	defendant or was superior to any right, title or interest
17	of the defendant at the time of the commission of the
18	acts which gave rise to the forfeiture of the property
19	under this chapter; or
20	(ii) the petitioner is a bona fide purchaser for
21	value of the right, title or interest in the property and
22	was at the time of purchase reasonably without cause to
23	believe that the property was subject to forfeiture under
24	this section.
25	The court shall amend the order of forfeiture in accordance
26	with its determination.
27	(j) Entering a final order

- (1) When the ancillary proceeding ends, the court shall 28 enter a final order of forfeiture by amending the preliminary 29 30 order as necessary to account for any third-party rights or

- 1 <u>interests.</u>
- 2 (2) If no third party files a timely petition, the
- 3 preliminary order shall become the final order of forfeiture.
- 4 § 5805. Interaction with the Federal Government.
- 5 (a) Prohibition on adoptive seizures. -- State law enforcement
- 6 <u>authorities shall not refer seized property to a Federal agency</u>
- 7 seeking the adoption by the Federal agency of the seized
- 8 property. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit
- 9 the Federal Government, or any of its agencies, from seeking
- 10 <u>Federal forfeiture</u>.
- 11 (b) Sharing of seized property. -- All property, money or
- 12 other things of value received by a State law enforcement
- 13 <u>authority under Federal law which authorizes the sharing or</u>
- 14 transfer of all or a portion of forfeited property or the
- 15 proceeds of the sale of forfeited property to a State law
- 16 enforcement authority shall be promptly transferred, sold and
- 17 deposited as set forth in section 5803(e), (f), (q), (h) and (i)
- 18 (relating to process for criminal asset forfeiture), if Federal
- 19 law prohibits compliance with section 5803(e), (f), (q), (h) and
- 20 (i), State law enforcement authorities shall not seek forfeited
- 21 property or proceeds of the sale of forfeited property shared or
- 22 transferred under Federal law.
- 23 (c) Civil and criminal liability. -- Any law enforcement
- 24 authority that violates subsection (a) is civilly liable to the
- 25 State for three times the amount of the forfeiture diverted and
- 26 for costs of suit and reasonable attorney fees. Any damages
- 27 awarded to the State shall be paid to the State Treasury to the
- 28 credit of the General Fund. Any agent, including a State law
- 29 <u>enforcement officer who is detached to, deputized or</u>
- 30 commissioned by, or working in conjunction with a Federal law

- 1 <u>enforcement authority</u>, who knowingly transfers or otherwise
- 2 trades seized property in violation of subsection (a) or who
- 3 receives property, money or other things of value under
- 4 <u>subsection (b) and knowingly fails to transfer such property in</u>
- 5 accordance with that subsection is quilty of a misdemeanor of
- 6 the second degree.
- 7 Section 8. Sections 6801 and 6802(a), (f), (j) and (k) of
- 8 Title 42 are amended to read:
- 9 § 6801. Controlled substances forfeiture.
- 10 [(a) Forfeitures generally. -- The following shall be subject
- 11 to forfeiture to the Commonwealth and no property right shall
- 12 exist in them:
- 13 (1) All drug paraphernalia, controlled substances or
- other drugs which have been manufactured, distributed,
- dispensed or acquired in violation of the act of April 14,
- 16 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled Substance,
- 17 Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.
- 18 (2) All raw materials, products and equipment of any
- 19 kind which are used, or intended for use, in manufacturing,
- 20 compounding, processing, delivering, importing or exporting
- 21 any controlled substance or other drug in violation of The
- 22 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.
- 23 (3) All property which is used, or intended for use, as
- a container for property described in paragraph (1) or (2).
- 25 (4) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles or
- vessels, which are used or are intended for use to transport,
- or in any manner to facilitate the transportation, sale,
- receipt, possession or concealment of, property described in
- 29 paragraph (1) or (2), except that:
- 30 (i) no conveyance used by any person as a common

carrier in the transaction of business as a common carrier shall be forfeited under the provisions of this section unless it shall appear that the owner or other person in charge of such conveyance was a consenting party or privy to a violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act;

- (ii) no conveyance shall be forfeited under the provisions of this section by reason of any act or omission established by the owner thereof to have been committed or omitted without his knowledge or consent, which absence of knowledge or consent must be reasonable under the circumstances presented;
- no bona fide security interest retained or acquired under 13 Pa.C.S. (relating to commercial code) by any merchant dealing in new or used aircraft, vehicles or vessels, or retained or acquired by any licensed or regulated finance company, bank or lending institution, or by any other business regularly engaged in the financing of, or lending on the security of, such aircraft, vehicles or vessels, shall be subject to forfeiture or impairment; and
- (iv) no conveyance shall be forfeited under this section for violation of section 13(a)(31) of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.
- All books, records and research, including formulas, microfilm, tapes and data, which are used or intended for use 27 in violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and 28 Cosmetic Act.
 - (i) All of the following: (6)
- Money, negotiable instruments, securities or 30

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other things of value furnished or intended to be
furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled
substance in violation of The Controlled Substance,

Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, and all proceeds
traceable to such an exchange.

- (B) Money, negotiable instruments, securities or other things of value used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.
- (C) Real property used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, including structures or other improvements thereon, and including any right, title and interest in the whole or any lot or tract of land and any appurtenances or improvements, which is used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, a violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, and things growing on, affixed to and found in the land.
- (ii) No property shall be forfeited under this paragraph, to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or omission established by the owner to have been committed or omitted without the knowledge or consent of that owner. Such money and negotiable instruments found in close proximity to controlled substances possessed in violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act shall be rebuttably presumed to be proceeds derived from the selling of a controlled substance in violation of The

1 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.

(iii) No valid lien or encumbrance on real property shall be subject to forfeiture or impairment under this paragraph. A lien which is fraudulent or intended to avoid forfeiture under this section shall be invalid.

- (7) Any firearms, including, but not limited to, rifles, shotguns, pistols, revolvers, machine guns, zip guns or any type of prohibited offensive weapon, as that term is defined in 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to crimes and offenses), which are used or intended for use to facilitate a violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. Such operable firearms as are found in close proximity to illegally possessed controlled substances shall be rebuttably presumed to be used or intended for use to facilitate a violation of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. All weapons forfeited under this section shall be immediately destroyed by the receiving law enforcement agency.
- 19 (b) Process and seizure.--Property subject to forfeiture
 20 under this chapter may be seized by the law enforcement
 21 authority upon process issued by any court of common pleas
 22 having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process
 23 may be made if:
- 24 (1) the seizure is incident to an arrest or a search 25 under a search warrant or inspection under an administrative 26 inspection warrant;
- 27 (2) the property subject to seizure has been the subject
 28 of a prior judgment in favor of the Commonwealth in a
 29 criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding under this
 30 chapter;

- 1 (3) there is probable cause to believe that the property
- 2 is dangerous to health or safety; or
- 3 (4) there is probable cause to believe that the property
- 4 has been used or is intended to be used in violation of The
- 5 Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act.
- 6 (c) Seizure without process.--In the event seizure without
- 7 process occurs, as provided herein, proceedings for the issuance
- 8 thereof shall be instituted forthwith.
- 9 (d) Custody of property. -- Property taken or detained under
- 10 this section shall not be subject to replevin, but is deemed to
- 11 be in the custody of the law enforcement authority subject only
- 12 to the orders and decrees of the court of common pleas having
- 13 jurisdiction over the forfeiture proceedings and of the district
- 14 attorney or the Attorney General. When property is seized under
- 15 this chapter, the law enforcement authority shall place the
- 16 property under seal and either:
- 17 (1) remove the property to a place designated by it; or
- 18 (2) require that the district attorney or Attorney
- 19 General take custody of the property and remove it to an
- appropriate location for disposition in accordance with law.
- 21 (e) Use of property held in custody.--Whenever property is
- 22 forfeited under this chapter, the property shall be transferred
- 23 to the custody of the district attorney, if the law enforcement
- 24 authority seizing the property has local or county jurisdiction,
- 25 or the Attorney General, if the law enforcement authority
- 26 seizing the property has Statewide jurisdiction. The district
- 27 attorney or the Attorney General, where appropriate, may:
- 28 (1) Retain the property for official use.
- 29 (2) Sell any forfeited property which is not required to
- 30 be destroyed by law and which is not harmful to the public,

- 1 but the proceeds from any such sale shall be used to pay all
- 2 proper expenses of the proceedings for forfeiture and sale,
- 3 including expenses of seizure, maintenance of custody,
- 4 advertising and court costs. The balance of the proceeds
- 5 shall be dealt with in accordance with subsections (f) and
- 6 (g).
- 7 (f) Use of cash or proceeds of property.--Cash or proceeds
- 8 of forfeited property transferred to the custody of the district
- 9 attorney pursuant to subsection (e) shall be placed in the
- 10 operating fund of the county in which the district attorney is
- 11 elected. The appropriate county authority shall immediately
- 12 release from the operating fund, without restriction, a like
- 13 amount for the use of the district attorney enforcing the
- 14 provisions of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and
- 15 Cosmetic Act. The entity having budgetary control shall not
- 16 anticipate future forfeitures or proceeds therefrom in adoption
- 17 and approval of the budget for the district attorney.
- 18 (g) Distribution of property among law enforcement
- 19 authorities. -- If both municipal and State law enforcement
- 20 authorities were substantially involved in effecting the
- 21 seizure, the court having jurisdiction over the forfeiture
- 22 proceedings shall equitably distribute the property between the
- 23 district attorney and the Attorney General.
- 24 (h) Authorization to utilize property. -- The district
- 25 attorney and the Attorney General shall utilize forfeited
- 26 property or proceeds thereof for the purpose of enforcing the
- 27 provisions of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and
- 28 Cosmetic Act. In appropriate cases, the district attorney and
- 29 the Attorney General may designate proceeds from forfeited
- 30 property to be utilized by community-based drug and crime-

- 1 fighting programs and for relocation and protection of witnesses
- 2 in criminal cases.
- 3 (i) Annual audit of forfeited property. -- It shall be the
- 4 responsibility of every county in this Commonwealth to provide,
- 5 through the controller, board of auditors or other appropriate
- 6 auditor and the district attorney, an annual audit of all
- 7 forfeited property and proceeds obtained under this section. The
- 8 audit shall not be made public but shall be submitted to the
- 9 Office of Attorney General. The county shall report all
- 10 forfeited property and proceeds obtained under this section and
- 11 the disposition thereof to the Attorney General by September 30
- 12 of each year.
- 13 (j) Annual report; confidential information regarding
- 14 property. -- The Attorney General shall annually submit a report,
- 15 to the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees of the Senate and
- 16 to the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees of the House of
- 17 Representatives, specifying the forfeited property or proceeds
- 18 thereof obtained under this section. The report shall give an
- 19 accounting of all proceeds derived from the sale of forfeited
- 20 property and the use made of unsold forfeited property. The
- 21 Attorney General shall adopt procedures and quidelines governing
- 22 the release of information by the district attorney to protect
- 23 the confidentiality of forfeited property or proceeds used in
- 24 ongoing drug enforcement activities.
- 25 (k) Proceeds and appropriations. -- The proceeds or future
- 26 proceeds from forfeited property under this chapter shall be in
- 27 addition to any appropriation made to the Office of Attorney
- 28 General.] Forfeiture of property shall be authorized for
- 29 violation of the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known
- 30 <u>as The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, and</u>

- 1 <u>conducted in accordance with Chapter 58 (relating to asset</u>
- 2 forfeiture). No conveyance may be forfeited under this section
- 3 for a violation of section 13(a)(31) of The Controlled
- 4 <u>Substance</u>, <u>Drug</u>, <u>Device</u> and <u>Cosmetic Act</u>.
- 5 § 6802. Procedure with respect to seized property subject to
- 6 liens and rights of lienholders.
- 7 (a) General procedure. -- The proceedings for the forfeiture
- 8 or condemnation of property, the sale of which is provided for
- 9 in this chapter, shall be in rem, in which the Commonwealth
- 10 shall be the plaintiff and the property the defendant. A
- 11 petition shall be filed in the court of common pleas of the
- 12 judicial district where the property is located, verified by
- 13 oath or affirmation of an officer or citizen, containing the
- 14 following:
- 15 (1) A description of the property seized.
- 16 (2) A statement of the time and place where seized.
- 17 (3) The owner, if known.
- 18 (4) The person or persons in possession, if known.
- 19 (5) An allegation that the property is subject to
- forfeiture pursuant to section [6801(a) (relating to
- controlled substances forfeiture) or] 6801.1(a) (relating to
- 22 terrorism forfeiture) and an averment of material facts upon
- 23 which the forfeiture action is based.
- 24 (6) A prayer for an order of forfeiture that the
- 25 property be adjudged forfeited to the Commonwealth and
- 26 condemned and be ordered sold according to law, unless cause
- 27 be shown to the contrary.
- 28 * * *
- 29 (f) Preservation of the property subject for forfeiture.--
- 30 Upon application of the Commonwealth, the court may enter a

- 1 restraining order or injunction, require the execution of a
- 2 satisfactory performance bond or take any other action to
- 3 preserve the availability of property described in section
- 4 [6801(a) or] 6801.1(a) for forfeiture under this section either:
- 5 (1) upon the filing of an information or an indictment
- 6 charging an offense in this Commonwealth for which criminal
- 7 forfeiture may be ordered under this chapter and alleging
- 8 that the property with respect to which the order is sought
- 9 would be subject to forfeiture; or
- 10 (2) prior to the filing of such an indictment or
- information, if, after notice to persons appearing to have an
- interest in the property and an opportunity for a hearing,
- 13 the court determines that:
- 14 (i) there is a substantial probability that the
- 15 Commonwealth will prevail on the issue of forfeiture and
- that failure to enter the order will result in the
- 17 property being destroyed, removed from the jurisdiction
- 18 of the court or otherwise made unavailable for
- 19 forfeiture; and
- 20 (ii) the need to preserve the availability of the
- 21 property through the entry of the requested order
- outweighs the hardship on any party against whom the
- order is to be entered.
- However, an order entered pursuant to this paragraph shall be
- 25 effective for not more than 90 days unless extended by the
- 26 court for good cause shown or unless an indictment or
- information described in paragraph (1) has been filed.
- 28 * * *
- 29 (j) Owner's burden of proof. -- At the time of the hearing, if
- 30 the Commonwealth produces evidence that the property in question

- 1 was unlawfully used, possessed or otherwise subject to
- 2 forfeiture under section [6801(a) or] 6801.1(a), the burden
- 3 shall be upon the claimant to show:
- 4 (1) That the claimant is the owner of the property or
- 5 the holder of a chattel mortgage or contract of conditional
- 6 sale thereon.
- 7 (2) That the claimant lawfully acquired the property.
- 8 (3) That it was not unlawfully used or possessed by him.
- 9 In the event that it shall appear that the property was
- 10 unlawfully used or possessed by a person other than the
- 11 claimant, then the claimant shall show that the unlawful use
- or possession was without his knowledge or consent. Such
- absence of knowledge or consent must be reasonable under the
- 14 circumstances presented.
- 15 (k) Court-ordered release of property.--If a person claiming
- 16 the ownership of or right of possession to or claiming to be the
- 17 holder of a chattel mortgage or contract of conditional sale
- 18 upon the property, the disposition of which is provided for in
- 19 this section, prior to the sale presents a petition to the court
- 20 alleging over the property lawful ownership, right of
- 21 possession, a lien or reservation of title and if, upon public
- 22 hearing, due notice of which having been given to the Attorney
- 23 General or the district attorney, the claimant shall prove by
- 24 competent evidence to the satisfaction of the court that the
- 25 property was lawfully acquired, possessed and used by him or, it
- 26 appearing that the property was unlawfully used by a person
- 27 other than the claimant, that the unlawful use was without the
- 28 claimant's knowledge or consent, then the court may order the
- 29 property returned or delivered to the claimant. Such absence of
- 30 knowledge or consent must be reasonable under the circumstances

- 1 presented. Otherwise, it shall be retained for official use or
- 2 sold in accordance with section [6801(e) or] 6801.1(f).
- 3 Section 9. Sections 4909(c), 9405(a), (b), (c)(1), (d), (i)
- 4 and (j) and 9406 of Title 75 are amended to read:
- 5 § 4909. Transporting foodstuffs in vehicles used to transport
- 6 waste.
- 7 * * *
- 8 (c) Vehicle forfeiture. -- Any vehicle or conveyance used in
- 9 the commission of an offense under this section shall be deemed
- 10 contraband and forfeited [to the Department of Environmental
- 11 Resources. The provisions of law relating to the seizure,
- 12 summary and judicial forfeiture, and condemnation of
- 13 intoxicating liquor shall apply to seizures and forfeitures
- 14 under this section. Proceeds from the sale of forfeited vehicles
- 15 or conveyances shall be deposited in the Solid Waste Abatement
- 16 Fund] in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58 (relating to asset
- 17 forfeiture).
- 18 * * *
- 19 § 9405. Forfeitures; process and procedures.
- 20 (a) Subjects of forfeiture. -- The following are subject to
- 21 forfeiture to the Commonwealth and no property right shall exist
- 22 in them:
- 23 (1) Any liquid fuels or fuels produced in or imported
- 24 into this Commonwealth by any distributor who does not
- 25 possess a valid liquid fuels tax permit or fuels permit as
- 26 required by section 9003 (relating to liquid fuels and fuels
- 27 permits; bond or deposit of securities), except liquid fuels
- or fuels imported in barrels, drums or similar containers
- 29 with a capacity of not more than 55 gallons in each barrel,
- 30 drum or container.

- 1 (2) All conveyances, including vehicles or vessels, used 2 to transport liquid fuels or fuels as described in paragraph 3 (1). [except:
 - (i) no conveyance used by any person as a common carrier in the transaction of business as a common carrier is subject to forfeiture under this section unless it appears that the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or privy to a violation of Chapter 90 (relating to liquid fuels and fuels tax); and
 - (ii) no bona fide security interest retained or acquired under Title 13 (relating to commercial code) by any merchant dealing in new or used vehicles or vessels, or retained or acquired by any licensed or regulated finance company, bank, lending institution or by any other business regularly engaged in the financing of or lending on the security of such vehicles or vessels, shall be subject to forfeiture or impairment.] Forfeiture of such conveyances shall be conducted in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58 (relating to asset forfeiture).
- 21 (b) Method of seizure.--[Property] <u>Liquid fuels or fuels</u>
 22 subject to forfeiture under this section may be seized by the
 23 Department of Revenue upon process issued by any court of common
 24 pleas having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without
 25 process may be made if the seizure is incident to an inspection
 26 or arrest for a violation of this chapter or Chapter 90.
- 27 (c) Limit on return of [property] <u>liquid fuels or fuels</u>.--
- 28 (1) No [property] <u>liquid fuels or fuels</u> seized in
 29 accordance with this section, when in the custody of the
 30 Department of Revenue, shall be seized or taken therefrom by

- any writ of replevin or other judicial process unless a
- 2 petition for forfeiture is not timely filed.
- 3 * * *
- 4 (d) In rem proceedings. -- The proceedings for the forfeiture
- 5 of any liquid fuels or fuels [or conveyances] seized under this
- 6 section shall be in rem. The Commonwealth shall be the plaintiff
- 7 and the property shall be the defendant. A petition shall be
- 8 filed, within five days after seizure, in the court of common
- 9 pleas of the county in which the property was seized by revenue
- 10 agents of the Department of Revenue, verified by oath or
- 11 affirmation of any revenue agent. In the event that the petition
- 12 is not filed within the time prescribed herein, the seized
- 13 property shall be immediately returned to the person from whom
- 14 seized or the owner thereof.
- 15 * * *
- 16 (i) Standard of proof. -- The claimant shall have the burden
- 17 of proving that he is not subject to the provisions of this
- 18 section, but the burden of proof shall be upon the Commonwealth
- 19 to prove all other facts necessary for the forfeiture of the
- 20 property. In the event that the Commonwealth has not met its
- 21 burden by a preponderance of the evidence or the claimant has
- 22 proved that he is not subject to the provisions of this section,
- 23 the court shall order the property returned to the claimant;
- 24 otherwise, the court shall order the property forfeited to the
- 25 Commonwealth. [In the case of a motor vehicle, vessel or
- 26 conveyance, should the claimant prove to the satisfaction of the
- 27 court that he is the registered owner of the motor vehicle,
- 28 vessel or conveyance and that he did not know or have reason to
- 29 know that it was being used to transport liquid fuels or fuels
- 30 in violation of the provisions of section 9404 (relating to

- 1 violations and penalties) or 9019 (relating to diesel fuel
- 2 importers and transporters; prohibiting use of dyed diesel fuel
- 3 on highways; violations and penalties), the court in its
- 4 discretion may order the motor vehicle, vessel or conveyance
- 5 returned to the claimant.
- 6 (j) Encumbered motor vehicle. -- In the case of a motor
- 7 vehicle, should the claimant prove that he holds a valid
- 8 encumbrance upon such motor vehicle, notice of which encumbrance
- 9 has been duly noted on the certificate of title to the motor
- 10 vehicle in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 11
- 11 (relating to certificate of title and security interests), the
- 12 forfeiture shall be subject to such encumbrance as of the date
- 13 of the seizure less prepaid or unearned interest. Before the
- 14 motor vehicle may be sold, exchanged or otherwise transferred or
- 15 retained for use by the Commonwealth, the outstanding amount of
- 16 the encumbrance shall be paid to the claimant or possession of
- 17 the motor vehicle shall be turned over to the claimant who shall
- 18 expose the same to public sale and shall pay over to the
- 19 Commonwealth any amount realized in excess of the outstanding
- 20 amount of such encumbrance less the reasonable costs incurred by
- 21 claimant in conducting such sale.]
- 22 § 9406. Disposition of fines and forfeitures.
- 23 All fines imposed under this chapter and the net proceeds
- 24 received from the sale of forfeited [property] liquid fuels or
- 25 <u>fuels</u> shall be payable to the Commonwealth and credited to the
- 26 Motor License Fund.
- 27 Section 10. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to
- 28 the contrary, the following forfeitures shall be conducted in
- 29 accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58:
- 30 (1) The forfeiture of property specified in section 1 of

- 1 the act of July 3, 1941 (P.L.263, No.121), entitled "An act
- 2 providing for the forfeiture and condemnation of vehicles
- 3 used to store, possess or transport narcotics or drugs, the
- 4 possession or transportation of which is in violation of
- 5 law."
- 6 (2) The seizure of property specified in sections 211(a)
- 7 (3) and 601 of the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21),
- 8 known as the Liquor Code.
- 9 (3) The forfeiture of property specified in section 1285
- of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax
- 11 Reform Code of 1971.
- 12 (4) The forfeiture of property specified in section 614
- of the act of July 7, 1980 (P.L.380, No.97), known as the
- 14 Solid Waste Management Act.
- 15 (5) The forfeiture of property specified in section 1715
- of the act of July 28, 1988 (P.L.556, No.101), known as the
- 17 Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act.
- 18 (6) The forfeiture of property specified in section 1 of
- 19 the act of December 1, 2004 (P.L.1766, No.227), entitled "An
- 20 act authorizing cities of the first class that have adopted a
- 21 home rule charter to enforce ordinances, rules and
- 22 regulations prohibiting dumping or disposal of waste, trash
- or debris."
- 24 Section 11. Repeals are as follows:
- 25 (a) The General Assembly finds that the repeals under
- 26 subsections (b) and (c) are necessary to effectuate the addition
- 27 of 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 58.
- 28 (b) Sections 602 and 603(a) and (b) of the act of April 12,
- 29 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, are repealed to
- 30 the extent of any inconsistency with this act.

- 1 (c) The following acts and parts of acts are repealed
- 2 absolutely:
- 3 (1) Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the act of July 3, 1941
- 4 (P.L.263, No.121), entitled "An act providing for the
- 5 forfeiture and condemnation of vehicles used to store,
- 6 possess or transport narcotics or drugs, the possession or
- 7 transportation of which is in violation of law."
- 8 (2) Section 603(c) of the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90,
- 9 No.21), known as the Liquor Code.
- 10 (3) Section 1285(f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m)
- 11 and (n) of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as
- the Tax Reform Code of 1971.
- 13 Section 12. This act shall take effect in 90 days.