

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

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**Title:** Human Rights Day Flyer

**Date:** May 24, 1977

**Location:** LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

**Contact:**

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COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN PENNSYLVANIA  
Human Rights Day Committee  
549 West Chestnut Street  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603

Dear Senator or Representative,

Tuesday, May 24th has been dubbed Human Rights Day by the Coalition for Human Rights in Pennsylvania whose membership includes NOW Chapters and other women's groups in Pennsylvania, various ACLU Chapters, Church related groups, and Gay Organizations as well as some prominent persons from across the State. On Tuesday, May 24th, persons from every part of the State will be coming to Harrisburg, under the auspices of the Coalition, to discuss with their legislators the issues of Senate Bill 531, currently under consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and other legislation of concern to these various groups.

We are asking that you set aside a small portion of that day to meet with your constituents and/or other representatives of the Coalition.

Enclosed is a self-addressed postcard for your prompt reply to our request. Legislators from Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties are requested to set appointments after 10:30 P.M., as busses from these points will not arrive until shortly after 10:00 P.M. We will make every effort to see that your constituents meet with you at the appointed time, or will delegate other official representatives of the Coalition for the appointed time.

Representatives of the Coalition may be recognized by their identification tag of the Pink Triangle enclosed within the Keystone.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Yours truly,

*Joseph W. Burns*

Joseph W. Burns  
Chairperson, Human Rights Day Committee

**WE ARE NOT  
THE CRIMINALS!**



**support**

**HUMAN RIGHTS  
DAY**

**May 24, 1977**

THE STATE IS GUILTY... OF REINFORCING THE AGE-OLD SEXIST VIEW OF WOMEN BY LEGALLY VIEWING RAPE AS A LESS SERIOUS CRIME THAN OTHER MAJOR CRIMES.

THE STATE IS GUILTY... OF ATTEMPTING TO LEGISLATE THE PRIVATE SEXUAL ACTS OF UNMARRIED CONSENTING ADULTS.

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SENATE BILL #531 PROPOSES TO REPEAL THE LAWS WHICH MAKE CERTAIN VOLUNTARY SEXUAL ACTS ILLEGAL BETWEEN UNMARRIED ADULTS.

ALSO SENATE BILL #531 PROPOSES THAT THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR RAPE BE RAISED FROM TWO TO FIVE YEARS.

WHAT SENATE BILL #531 WILL DO:

- \* REPEAL THE STATUTE ON "VOLUNTARY DEVIATE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE."  
THIS WILL MAKE PRIVATE SEXUAL ACTS LEGAL BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS.
- \* EXTENDS THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR RAPE FROM ITS PRESENT 2YEARS TO 5 YEARS.  
THIS WILL MAKE IT EQUAL AT LEAST TO THE LIMITATIONS FOR BURGLARY, ROBBERY, PERJURY, FORCIBLE SODOMY, ARSON AND FORGERY.
- \* REDEFINE "INVOLUNTARY DEVIATE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE" AS "FORCIBLE SODOMY."  
THIS INTENDS TO REMOVE THE IDEA THAT A PARTICULAR TYPE OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY IS DEVIANT.
- \* TRANSFER THE STATUTE ON "CORRUPTION OF MINORS" FROM ITS PRESENT LOCATION (SEXUAL OFFENSES) TO THE GENERAL SECTION ON CRIMES.  
LEAVING THIS SECTION UNDER THE SEXUAL OFFENSES SECTION IMPLIES THAT MINORS CAN ONLY BE CORRUPTED SEXUALLY AND IMMUNE TO CORRUPTION IF THEY WERE TO COMMIT OTHER CRIMES.
- \* LOWERS THE AGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MINORS FROM 18 TO 16.  
THIS WILL BE IN ADDITION TO MOVING THE SECTION ON "CORRUPTION OF MINORS."

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

YOU CAN CHANGE THIS PREJUDICIAL ATTITUDE OF THIS STATE BY GOING TO HARRISBURG ON MAY 24TH FOR "HUMAN RIGHTS DAY."

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY IS BEING ORGANIZED BY A COALITION OF GAY GROUPS, WOMEN'S GROUPS, CHURCH GROUPS AND AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU) CHAPTERS.

ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, LOBBYISTS FROM THE COALITION WILL ASK OUR STATE SENATORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL #531. LOBBYISTS WILL MEET ON MAY 24TH AT THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, 6TH AND HERR STREETS, IN HARRISBURG.

FOR A TRULY SUCCESSFUL LOBBYING EFFORT ALL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS MUST BE REPRESENTED BY LOBBYISTS FROM EACH DISTRICT.

WORKSHOPS FOR LOBBYISTS WILL BE HELD ON MAY 21ST IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE TIMES AND ADDRESSES OF THESE WORKSHOPS WHEN WE RECEIVE THE BLANK THAT WE HOPE YOU WILL FILL OUT.

WORKSHOPS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DAY WILL BE HELD MAY 21ST IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE: ALLENTOWN, HARRISBURG, LANCASTER, PITTSBURGH, PHILADELPHIA, STATE COLLEGE, WILLIAMSPORT.

FILL OUT THE BLANK ON THE BACK OF THIS PAMPHLET IF YOU INTEND TO BE IN HARRISBURG ON MAY 24TH. WE WILL ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR FOR YOU.



NOTE: Words underlined are being added.  
Words in brackets are being removed.

Printer's No. 550

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE BILL

No. **531**

Session of  
1977

INTRODUCED BY LEWIS, McKINNEY, HOWARD, GURZENDA, HANKINS, ARLENE,  
CIANFRANI AND REIBMAN, MARCH 21, 1977

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, MARCH 21, 1977

## AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and Title 42 (Judiciary  
2 and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
3 Statutes, further providing for time limitations, providing  
4 for the offense of sodomy and further providing for  
5 corruption of minors.

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

8 Section 1. Sections 3101 and 3123 of Title 18, act of  
9 November 25, 1970 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania  
10 Consolidated Statutes, are amended and a section is added to  
11 read:

12 § 3101. Definitions.

13 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent  
14 provisions of this chapter which are applicable to specific  
15 provisions of this chapter, the following words and phrases when  
16 used in this chapter shall have, unless the context clearly  
17 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

18 ["Deviate sexual intercourse."] "Sodomy." Sexual intercourse  
19 per os or per anus between human beings [who are not husband and

1 wife,] and any form of sexual intercourse with an animal.

2 "Indecent contact." Any touching of the sexual or other  
3 intimate parts of the person for the purpose of arousing or  
4 gratifying sexual desire, in either person.

5 "Sexual intercourse." [In addition to its ordinary meaning,  
6 includes intercourse per os or per anus,] Copulation with some  
7 penetration however slight; emission is not required.

8 § 3123. [Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse.]

9 Forcible sodomy.

10 A person commits a felony of the first degree when he engages  
11 in [deviate sexual intercourse] sodomy with another person:

12 (1) by forcible compulsion;

13 (2) by threat of forcible compulsion that would prevent  
14 resistance by a person of reasonable resolution;

15 (3) who is unconscious;

16 (4) who is so mentally deranged or deficient that such  
17 person is incapable of consent; or

18 (5) who is less than 16 years of age.

19 Section 2. Sections 3124 and 3125 of Title 18 are repealed:

20 [§ 3124. Voluntary deviate sexual intercourse.

21 A person who engages in deviate sexual intercourse under  
22 circumstances not covered by section 3123 of this title  
23 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse) is guilty  
24 of a misdemeanor of the second degree.]

25 [§ 3125. Corruption of minors.

26 (a) Offense defined.--Whoever, being of the age of 18 years  
27 and upwards, by any act corrupts or tends to corrupt the morals  
28 of any child under the age of 18 years, or who aids, abets,  
29 entices or encourages any such child in the commission of any  
30 crime, or who knowingly assists or encourages such child in

1 violating his or her parole or any order of court, is guilty of  
2 a misdemeanor of the first degree.

3 (b) Adjudication of delinquency unnecessary.--A conviction  
4 under the provisions of this section may be had whether or not  
5 the jurisdiction of any juvenile court has attached or shall  
6 thereafter attach to such child or whether or not such child has  
7 been adjudicated a delinquent or shall thereafter be adjudicated  
8 a delinquent.

9 (c) Presumptions.--In trials and hearings upon charges of  
10 violating the provisions of this section, knowledge of the  
11 minor's age and of the court's orders and decrees concerning  
12 such minor shall be presumed in the absence of proof to the  
13 contrary.]

14 § 6301. Corruption of minors.

15 (a) Offense defined.--Whoever, being of the age of 18 years  
16 and upwards, by any act corrupts or tends to corrupt the morals  
17 of any minor less than 16 years of age, or who aids, abets,  
18 entices or encourages any such minor in the commission of any  
19 crime, or who knowingly assists or encourages such minor in  
20 violating his or her parole or any order of court, is guilty of  
21 a misdemeanor of the first degree.

22 (b) Adjudication of delinquency unnecessary.--A conviction  
23 under the provisions of this section may be had whether or not  
24 the jurisdiction of any juvenile court has attached or shall  
25 thereafter attach to such minor or whether or not such minor has  
26 been adjudicated a delinquent or shall thereafter be adjudicated  
27 a delinquent.

28 (c) Presumptions.--In trials and hearings upon charges of  
29 violating the provisions of this section, knowledge of the  
30 minor's age and of the court's orders and decrees concerning



1 such minor shall be presumed in the absence of proof to the  
2 contrary.

3 Section 3. Section 5552(b) of Title 42 (Judiciary and  
4 Judicial Procedure), added July 9, 1976 (No.142), is amended to  
5 read:

6 § 5552. Other offenses.

7 \* \* \*

8 (b) Major offenses.--A prosecution for any of the following  
9 offenses under Title 18 (relating to crimes and offenses) must  
10 be commenced within five years after it is committed:

11 18 Pa.C.S. § 3121 (relating to rape).

12 18 Pa.C.S. § 3123 (relating to [involuntary deviate  
13 sexual intercourse).] forcible sodomy).

14 18 Pa.C.S. § 3301 (relating to arson and related  
15 offenses).

16 18 Pa.C.S. § 3502 (relating to burglary).

17 18 Pa.C.S. § 3701 (relating to robbery).

18 18 Pa.C.S. § 4101 (relating to forgery).

19 18 Pa.C.S. § 4902 (relating to perjury).

20 Section 4. Section 1 shall take effect in 30 days.

21 Section 5. Section 2 shall take effect immediately or on the  
22 effective date of 42 Pa.C.S. § 5552, whichever occurs later.

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE IN THE HALLS OF STATE GOVERNMENT. SENATE BILL #531 PROPOSES THAT RAPE BE CONSIDERED AN EQUAL CRIME WITH OTHER MAJOR CRIMES IN THIS STATE. FOR GAY PEOPLE, WE ARE ENGAGED IN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS GAYS IN PENNSYLVANIA HAVE YET TO PERFORM — REPEAL OF THE STATUTES RELATING TO "DEVIATE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE." THE FIRST LOBBYING EFFORT WILL BE AIMED AT THE STATE SENATE. IF AND WHEN SENATE BILL #531 PASSES IN THE SENATE, WE MUST CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON THE STATE'S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WE NEED MONEY. NOT A LOT, BUT ENOUGH TO PUBLISH AND MAIL THE HUNDREDS OF LETTERS WE MUST MAIL, ENOUGH TO MAKE THE PHONE CALLS AROUND THE STATE TO KEEP THE WHOLE EFFORT COORDINATED AND ALIVE, ENOUGH TO PRINT THE POSTERS THAT GET PEOPLE INVOLVED.

PLEASE SEND US A CHECK TODAY TO THE ADDRESS LISTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE. AFTER ALL, NO ONE IS GOING TO DO IT FOR US.

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TO: HUMAN RIGHTS DAY COMMITTEE  
C/O SAM DEETZ  
549 W. CHESTNUT ST.  
LANCASTER, PA. 17603



I WILL ATTEND A HUMAN RIGHTS DAY WORKSHOP ON MAY 21ST IN:

ALLENTOWN  
 HARRISBURG

LANCASTER  
 PITTSBURGH

PHILADELPHIA  
 STATE COLLEGE  
 WILLIAMSPORT

I AM AVAILABLE TO LOBBY IN HARRISBURG FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DAY ON MAY 21ST.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE LOBBYING EFFORT, BUT HERE IS A CHECK TO HELP OFFSET THE COSTS.

COMMENTS: (WHATEVER YOUR DECISION, WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS.)