TOLL'S PENNSYLVANIA CRIMES CODE ANNOTATED 2d

Annotations By

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To the memory of my late father Herman Toll, Member, Pennsylvania Bar, House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (1950–1958), United States Congress (1958–1966), who taught me how laws are made.

In 1969, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, through its Special Committee on Crime and Juvenile Delinquency, David F. Maxwell, Chairman, Sheldon S. Toll, Reporter, undertook a very careful analysis of the criticisms of Senate Bill No. 38, with a view toward submitting a revised Bill to the Legislature. This effort culminated in the introduction and successful passage of Senate Bill No. 455, Session of 1971. The Crimes Code was enacted by the Governor on December 6, 1972, as Act No. 334. It took effect on June 6, 1973.

FOREWORD

In May, 1962, the American Law Institute released its final draft of a Model Penal Code, the result of ten years' research. The concept of the Code was to provide a comprehensive treatment and systematization of the criminal law, to make the law more rational and just. Immediately, the organized bar commenced efforts to adopt the Model Penal Code in Pennsylvania, and that effort culminated in the adoption of Pennsylvania's Crimes Code in 1972.

Scope of this Edition

This work is intended to be useful to both the general practitioner and the criminal law specialist. I have carefully edited both the Comments to the Model Penal Code and the Comments of the Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission (1967), in order to reproduce only those portions which are relevant to the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, as finally enacted.

Although these Comments do not have the force of law, they were before the Pennsylvania Legislature at the time of its adoption of the Crimes Code. These Comments are intended to set forth the purpose of various provisions of the Code, to aid in viewing the Code as an integrated whole, and to safeguard against misconstruction.

Further, I have also appended in many instances a Reporter's Comment, indicating legislative changes, criticisms, etc., and supplementing, where necessary, the Model Penal Code and Joint State Government Commission Comments. Where applicable, I have also included a section entitled "Cases." This section is intended to set forth cases in addition to those mentioned in the Comments.

I wish to make the following acknowledgments: to my wife, Roberta, without whose encouragement and devotion this work would not have been undertaken; to my secretary, Doreen Walker, whose zeal and diligence contributed greatly to the final form of the text; Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Company, now Thomson Reuters, whose interest made this book possible; to the partners of Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn, Detroit, Michigan, my law firm, for their understanding concerning demands on my time during this project; to the American Law Institute, Paul Wolkin, Esquire, Assistant Director, for kind permission to reproduce portions of the Model Penal Code Comments.

SHELDON S. TOLL
Detroit, Michigan

PENNSYLVANIA CRIMES CODE

All text is current through Act 17 of the 2026 Pennsylvania General Assembly.

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