

Pennsylvania State Police State Documents

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

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Summary Information

Repository: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Creator: Pennsylvania State Police

Creator: Pennsylvania. Department of State Police

Title: Pennsylvania State Police State Documents

Identifier: POL

Date: 1905 - Present

Date: Majority of material found within 2019 - Present

Physical Description: 9 Megabytes (5 PDF files)

Language of English

Materials:

Scope and Contents

The Pennsylvania State Police are authorized and empowered to make arrests without warrant for all violations of the law which they may witness, and to serve and execute warrants issued by the proper local authorities. Members of the force have all the powers and prerogatives conferred by law upon members of the police force of cities of the first class and upon constables of the Commonwealth, and to act as game protectors and as forest, fish, or fire wardens. In addition, the Pennsylvania State Police have the power and duty: to assist the Governor in the administration and enforcement of the laws of the Commonwealth; with the approval of the Governor, to assist any administrative department, board, or commission of state government to enforce the laws applicable to such department, board, or commission, or any organization hereof; whenever possible, to cooperate with counties and municipalities in the detection of crime, the apprehension of criminals, and the preservation of law and order throughout the state; to aid in the enforcement of all laws relating to game, fish, forests, and waters; to collect and classify information useful for the detection of crime and identification and apprehension of criminals (such information shall be available for all police officers within the Commonwealth, under such regulations as the Commissioner may prescribe); to enforce the laws regulating the use of the highways of this Commonwealth, and to assist the Department of Revenue in the collection of motor license fees, fees for titling vehicles and tractors, operator's license fees, the taxes on cigarettes and liquid fuels, and the issuance of certificates of title and motor and operator's licenses; and to search without warrant any boat, conveyance, vehicle, or receptacle, or any place of business when there is good reason to believe that any law has been violated, the enforcement or administration of which is imposed or vested in the Department of Revenue.

The publications of the Pennsylvania State Police contain annual reports, quarterly reports, and strategic plans. Selected topics from these publications include traffic stop statistics and future goals of the department. The bulk of the current material is dated from 2019 to present.

Biographical / Historical

The Department of State Police was created in 1905 to help preserve law and order throughout the Commonwealth and to cooperate with and assist local law-enforcement officers in the apprehension of criminals. It was the first uniformed police organization of its kind in the United States. The original complement was limited by law to only 228 men to patrol the 45,000 square miles of Pennsylvania. The State

Highway Patrol in the Department of Revenue, which had originally been established in the Department of Highways in 1923 to enforce motor vehicle laws, was merged with the Department in 1937 to become the Pennsylvania Motor Police. The name of the agency was changed to Pennsylvania State Police in 1943.

Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Department of State Police (former agency name)

Other Finding Aids

For more information concerning the records of the Pennsylvania State Police at the Pennsylvania State Archives, please visit:

<https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=class94>.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Police, State
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