

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1693 Session of  
1989

INTRODUCED BY LASHINGER, KOSINSKI, LAUGHLIN, NAHILL, SAURMAN,  
PISTELLA, CLYMER, WOGAN, CORNELL, FARGO, MILLER, DeLUCA,  
HOWLETT, MAIALE, BELARDI, ANGSTADT, WESTON, STABACK, DEMPSEY,  
ROBINSON, BORTNER, McNALLY, MARSICO, J. H. CLARK, BUNT, BURD,  
NOYE, McHALE, ADOLPH, FOSTER, VAN HORNE, FOX, LEVDANSKY,  
NAILOR, SEMMEL, CIVERA, PRESTON, TANGRETTI, MELIO, ARGALL,  
B. SMITH, E. Z. TAYLOR, GAMBLE, TRELLO, VEON, SERAFINI,  
TIGUE, HERMAN, JOHNSON, GODSHALL, BILLOW, FEE, FLICK AND  
BISHOP, JUNE 14, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 14, 1989

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 26, 1975 (P.L.438, No.124),  
2 entitled, as amended, "An act establishing child protective  
3 services; providing procedures for reporting and  
4 investigating the abuse of children; establishing and  
5 providing access to a Statewide central register and pending  
6 complaint file on child abuse; investigating such reports;  
7 providing for taking protective action including taking a  
8 child into protective custody; placing duties on the  
9 Department of Public Welfare and county children and youth  
10 social service agencies; establishing child protective  
11 services in each county children and youth social service  
12 agency; and providing penalties," prohibiting certain  
13 ritualistic acts in relation to children; and providing a  
14 penalty.

15 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
16 hereby enacts as follows:

17 Section 1. The act of November 26, 1975 (P.L.438, No.124),  
18 known as the Child Protective Services Law, is amended by adding  
19 a section to read:

20 Section 19.1. Certain Ritualistic Acts Prohibited.--(a) The

1 ritualistic physical or psychological abuse of a child, when  
2 undertaken as a part of a ceremony, rite, initiation,  
3 observance, performance or practice, is prohibited.

4 (b) A violation of this section constitutes a felony of the  
5 second degree.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.