
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 494 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, SAYLOR, MUNDY, BISHOP, METCALFE, SWANGER,
HAGGERTY, GINGRICH, V. BROWN, HENNESSEY, STEPHENS, MAJOR,
KORTZ, O'BRIEN, KAUFFMAN, TALLMAN, PICKETT, DONATUCCI,
YOUNGBLOOD, READSHAW, COHEN, M. K. KELLER, C. HARRIS,
DAVIDSON, WATSON, MICOZZIE, GIBBONS, HAHN, DENLINGER, MATZIE,
GILLEN AND PEIFER, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for the offense of failure
3 of duty to report disappearance of a child.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 4304.1. Duty to report disappearance of child.

9 (a) Offense defined.--A parent of a child under 14 years of
10 age commits an offense if the parent, with reckless disregard
11 for the risk of harm to the child or for the health, safety or
12 welfare of the child, fails to report the disappearance of the
13 child to a law enforcement agency.

14 (b) Grading.--An offense under subsection (a) constitutes a
15 felony of the third degree.

16 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following

1 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
2 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Disappearance." Any instance in which the whereabouts of
4 the child are unknown to the parent and have been unknown for
5 more than 24 hours.

6 "Parent." A natural parent, stepparent, adoptive parent,
7 guardian or custodian of a child.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.