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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1178 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY COHEN, K. BOYLE, BRADFORD, BRIGGS, V. BROWN,  
BROWNLEE, D. COSTA, P. COSTA, DAVIS, DELISSIO, D. EVANS,  
FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, GERGELY, MCGEEHAN, MOLCHANY, MUNDY,  
O'BRIEN, PARKER, PASHINSKI, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SANTARSIERO,  
SCHLOSSBERG, STURLA, VITALI, WHEATLEY AND YOUNGBLOOD,  
APRIL 15, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 15, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in marriage, adding a definition; and  
3 providing for civil unions.

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

6 Section 1. Section 1102 of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:

8 § 1102. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall  
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Civil union." A union between two adults of the same sex.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 2. Title 23 is amended by adding a section to read:

15 § 1103.1. Civil unions.

16 (a) General rule.--All of the rights, protections and duties

1 created by the Commonwealth that are applicable to a marriage  
2 shall apply to a civil union, unless the General Assembly  
3 expressly states otherwise.

4 (b) Reciprocity.--A marriage between persons of the same  
5 sex, a civil union or a substantially similar legal relationship  
6 to that of a civil union, other than common-law marriage,  
7 legally entered into in another jurisdiction shall be recognized  
8 in this Commonwealth as a civil union.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.