
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 970 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WARD, TEPLITZ, RAFFERTY, MENSCH, VULAKOVICH AND
YUDICHAK, AUGUST 7, 2015

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, AUGUST 7, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in culpability, providing for failure
3 to report violent offense by witnesses; and imposing a
4 penalty.

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

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

9 § 306.1. Failure to report violent offense by witnesses.

10 (a) General rule.--A person who witnesses the actual
11 commission of a violent offense shall, to the extent that the
12 person can do so without danger to himself or others, report the
13 violent offense to law enforcement as soon as reasonably
14 possible.

15 (b) Method of notification.--The duty to notify under this
16 section is met if a person notifies or attempts to provide law
17 enforcement the notice by telephone or any other means as soon
18 as reasonably possible.

19 (c) Penalty.--A person who fails to provide notification as

1 required by subsection (a) commits a misdemeanor of the third
2 degree.

3 (d) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "violent
4 offense" means any of the following:

5 (1) Murder of the first, second or third degree.

6 (2) Voluntary manslaughter.

7 (3) Aggravated assault as defined in section 2702(a)(1)
8 or (2) (relating to aggravated assault).

9 (4) Rape.

10 (5) Involuntary deviate sexual intercourse.

11 (6) Aggravated indecent assault.

12 (7) Incest.

13 (8) Sexual assault.

14 (9) Arson as defined in section 3301(a) (relating to
15 arson and related offenses).

16 (10) Kidnapping.

17 (11) Burglary as defined in section 3502 (relating to
18 burglary).

19 (12) An attempt, conspiracy or solicitation to commit
20 any of the offenses listed in this subsection.

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