

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1458 Session of  
2013

INTRODUCED BY J. HARRIS, ENGLISH, HAGGERTY, JAMES, KINSEY,  
PEIFER, SCHLOSSBERG, FARINA, YOUNGBLOOD, WHITE, BOBACK,  
NEILSON, MILLARD, BIZZARRO, O'BRIEN, THOMAS, V. BROWN,  
SWANGER, MAJOR, KIRKLAND, COHEN, BROWNLEE, EVERETT,  
DONATUCCI, CLYMER, PAINTER, MOLCHANY, DENLINGER, ROZZI,  
McGEEHAN, BRIGGS, BURNS, MILNE, SIMS, TRUITT AND HARKINS,  
MAY 30, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MAY 30, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions.

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

5 Section 1. Section 2709.1(f) of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania  
6 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

7 § 2709.1. Stalking.

8 \* \* \*

9 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
10 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
11 subsection:

12 "Communicates." To convey a message without intent of  
13 legitimate communication or address by oral, nonverbal, written  
14 or electronic means, including telephone, electronic mail,  
15 Internet, facsimile, telex, wireless communication, social media

1 or similar transmission.

2 "Course of conduct." A pattern of actions composed of more  
3 than one act over a period of time, however short, evidencing a  
4 continuity of conduct. The term includes lewd, lascivious,  
5 threatening or obscene words, language, drawings, caricatures or  
6 actions, either in person or anonymously. Acts indicating a  
7 course of conduct which occur in more than one jurisdiction may  
8 be used by any other jurisdiction in which an act occurred as  
9 evidence of a continuing pattern of conduct or a course of  
10 conduct.

11 "Emotional distress." A temporary or permanent state of  
12 mental anguish.

13 "Family or household member." Spouses or persons who have  
14 been spouses, persons living as spouses or who lived as spouses,  
15 parents and children, other persons related by consanguinity or  
16 affinity, current or former sexual or intimate partners or  
17 persons who share biological parenthood.

18 "Social media." The term includes, but is not limited to,  
19 social networking Internet websites and any other forms of media  
20 that involve any means of creating, sharing and viewing user-  
21 generated information through an account, service or Internet  
22 website.

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