

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1591 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY JOHNSON-HARRELL, CEPHAS, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, HARRIS, MADDEN, SHUSTERMAN, KOSIEROWSKI, KINSEY, McCLINTON, HOWARD, SOLOMON, HOHENSTEIN, DALEY, DAWKINS, FRANKEL, D. MILLER, SCHWEYER, DELLOSO, MURT, BURGOS, GALLOWAY, LEE, WHEATLEY, T. DAVIS, HANBIDGE, CALTAGIRONE, ROEBUCK, OTTEN, FIEDLER AND ULLMAN, JUNE 7, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 7, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating
3 to inmate confinement, providing for family consideration in
4 placement and visitation.

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

7 Section 1. Title 61 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 5908. Family consideration in placement and visitation.

10 (a) Placement.--To the greatest extent possible, after
11 accounting for security and capacity factors, the department
12 shall ensure that incarcerated mothers of a minor dependent
13 shall be placed within 250 miles of their permanent address of
14 record.

15 (b) Visitation.--The department shall authorize visitation
16 by minor dependents, with the minimum following requirements:

17 (1) opportunities for dependent children under 18 years

1 of age to visit their mother at least two days per week;

2 (2) elimination of restrictions on the number of
3 dependent children under 18 years of age that may be
4 permitted visitation privileges; and

5 (3) authorization of contact visits for mothers with
6 low-security or minimum-security classifications.

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