AN ACT

Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting mutilation of female genitalia.

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

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

§ 3131. Female mutilation.

(a) Offense defined.--A person commits female mutilation when:

(1) the person knowingly circumcises, excises or infibulates the whole or any part of the genitalia of a female; or

(2) the person is a parent, guardian or other person who is legally responsible for and charged with the care or custody of a female child 17 years of age or younger, and who allows the circumcision, excision or infibulation of the
whole or any part of the female child's genitalia.

(b) Grading.--Female mutilation is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(c) Exception.--A surgical operation is not a violation of this section if such operation is:

(1) necessary to the health of the person on whom it is performed and either is performed by a licensed physician or is performed in the presence of a licensed physician by a person in training to become a licensed physician; or

(2) performed on a person in labor or who has just given birth and is performed for medical reasons connected with that labor or birth by a licensed physician, by a licensed midwife or in the presence of a licensed physician by a person in training to become a licensed physician.

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