

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1127 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DeLUCA,  
FARRY, GEIST, GIBBONS, GROVE, HARRIS, MICOZZIE, MILLER, MURT,  
PICKETT, PYLE, REICHLEY, SONNEY, STERN, TALLMAN, J. TAYLOR,  
VULAKOVICH AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 21, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 21, 2011

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for indirect criminal  
3 contempt for violation of support order.

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

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

8 § 4345.1. Indirect criminal contempt for violation of support  
9 order.

10 (a) Filing of charge.--The domestic relations section or the  
11 district attorney may file and prosecute charges of indirect  
12 criminal contempt alleging that an obligor has willfully  
13 violated a support order.

14 (b) Determination.--Where a court finds that an obligor has  
15 willfully violated a support order or another order of court  
16 related to the support order, the court may hold the obligor in  
17 indirect criminal contempt and punish the obligor in accordance

1 with this section.

2 (c) Trial and punishment.--A sentence for indirect criminal  
3 contempt shall be punishable by any one or more of the  
4 following:

5 (1) A fine not to exceed \$1,000.

6 (2) Imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months.

7 (3) Probation for a period not to exceed one year.

8 (4) An order for other relief.

9 (d) Obligor.--The obligor shall not have a right to jury  
10 trial on a charge of indirect criminal contempt. However, the  
11 obligor shall be entitled to counsel.

12 (e) Multiple remedies.--Disposition of a charge of indirect  
13 criminal contempt shall not preclude the prosecution of other  
14 criminal charges associated with the incident giving rise to the  
15 contempt, nor shall disposition of other criminal charges  
16 preclude prosecution of indirect criminal contempt associated  
17 with the conduct giving rise to the charges.

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