

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2666 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, McCLINTON, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, SIMS, FRANKEL, DAVIS, KIRKLAND, CEPHAS, THOMAS, J. HARRIS, SOLOMON, RABB, KINSEY, MURT, DAWKINS, DAVIDSON, YOUNGBLOOD, FITZGERALD, DALEY AND ROEBUCK, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

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 phone calls at State
 4 correctional institutions.

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. Phone calls at State correctional institutions.

10 (a) Primary caretaker parents.--Notwithstanding any other
 11 provision of law, a State inmate shall have the right to make,
 12 without expense to the State inmate, one telephone call each
 13 month to a child of the State inmate if, prior to incarceration:

14 (1) The State inmate was the primary caretaker of the
 15 child.

16 (2) The child lived with the State inmate.

17 (b) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
 18 construed as prohibiting other phone calls by State inmates in

1 accordance with policies and procedures of the department.

2 (c) Applicability.--This section shall not apply to a video
3 conference call.

4 (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
5 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
6 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Child." An individual who is under 22 years of age.

8 "Primary caretaker parent." An individual who is a parent,
9 guardian or custodian of a child and provides more care to the
10 child than another parent, guardian or custodian of the child.

11 "State inmate." An inmate of a State correctional
12 institution.

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