
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1859 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DELLOSO, BARRAR, KENYATTA, McNEILL, JOHNSON-
HARRELL, CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW, CIRESI, OTTEN AND McCLINTON,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in other offenses, providing for the
3 offense of failure to report death.

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

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

8 § 7518. Failure to report death.

9 (a) Offense defined.--Except as provided in subsection (b),
10 a person is guilty of a summary offense if, upon witnessing the
11 death of an individual or discovering the body of an individual
12 the person knows or reasonably believes is dead, the person
13 fails to, in the most expeditious manner possible, notify a 911
14 system, physician or other medical professional, law enforcement
15 agency or funeral home.

16 (b) Exception.--Subsection (a) shall not apply:

17 (1) If the person knows or reasonably believes that a
18 911 system, physician or other medical professional, law

1 enforcement agency or funeral home has been notified of the
2 death of the individual or discovery of the body of the
3 individual.

4 (2) To the following:

5 (i) A child under 14 years of age.

6 (ii) An individual with an intellectual disability
7 acting under the direction of their parent, an individual
8 residing in the same household or an individual
9 responsible for their welfare.

10 (c) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "funeral
11 home" shall have the same meaning as "funeral establishment" in
12 section 2(6) of the act of January 14, 1952 (1951 P.L.1898,
13 No.522), known as the Funeral Director Law.

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