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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2258 Session of  
2010

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INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, PALLONE, BAKER, BELFANTI, BISHOP,  
BRADFORD, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, FREEMAN, HALUSKA, HORNAMAN,  
HOUGHTON, JOSEPHS, KORTZ, MCGEEHAN, MUNDY, SANTARSIERO,  
SIPTROTH AND SWANGER, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juvenile matters,  
3 providing for sibling placement and visitation.

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

6 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 6351.2. Sibling placement and visitation.

9 (a) Disposition review hearing findings.--At the disposition  
10 review hearing, the court must make findings:

11 (1) that reasonable efforts have been made to place  
12 siblings together; or

13 (2) the reason why the safety or well-being of any of  
14 the siblings would be negatively affected because of joint  
15 placement.

16 (b) Disposition review hearing visitation orders.--If a  
17 finding has been made that joint placement is contrary to the

1 safety or well-being of any of the siblings, the court shall  
2 enter an order that ensures visitation no less than twice a  
3 month unless a finding is made that visitation is contrary to  
4 the safety or well-being of any of the siblings.

5 (c) Permanency hearing findings.--At all permanency  
6 hearings, the court must make findings:

7 (1) that reasonable efforts have been made to place  
8 siblings together; or

9 (2) the reason why the safety or well-being of any of  
10 the siblings would be negatively affected by joint placement.

11 (d) Permanency hearing visitation orders.--If a finding has  
12 been made that joint placement is contrary to the safety or  
13 well-being of any of the siblings, the court shall enter an  
14 order that ensures visitation no less than twice a month unless  
15 a finding is made that visitation is contrary to the safety or  
16 well-being of any of the siblings.

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