
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1502 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, BREWSTER, KITCHEN, FONTANA, WARD, WOZNIAK,
SMITH, ERICKSON, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE, VULAKOVICH AND
FARNESE, OCTOBER 14, 2014

REFERRED TO AGING AND YOUTH, OCTOBER 14, 2014

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further
3 providing for definitions and for exclusions from child
4 abuse.

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

7 Section 1. The definition of "serious physical neglect" in
8 section 6303 of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes is amended to read:

10 § 6303. Definitions.

11 (a) General rule.--The following words and phrases when used
12 in this chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this
13 section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 * * *

15 "Serious physical neglect." Any of the following when
16 committed by a perpetrator that endangers a child's life or
17 health, threatens a child's well-being, causes bodily injury or
18 impairs a child's health, development or functioning:

1 (1) A repeated, prolonged or egregious failure to
2 supervise a child in a manner that is appropriate considering
3 the child's developmental age and abilities.

4 (2) The failure to provide a child with adequate
5 essentials of life, including food, shelter with running
6 water or medical care.

7 * * *

8 Section 2. Section 6304(a) of Title 23 is amended to read:
9 § 6304. Exclusions from child abuse.

10 (a) Environmental factors.--No child shall be deemed to be
11 physically or mentally abused based on injuries that result
12 solely from environmental factors, such as inadequate housing,
13 except shelter with lack of running water, furnishings, income,
14 clothing and medical care, that are beyond the control of the
15 parent or person responsible for the child's welfare with whom
16 the child resides. This subsection shall not apply to any child-
17 care service as defined in this chapter, excluding an adoptive
18 parent.

19 * * *

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.