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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 392 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, COHEN, SAYLOR, SCHLEGEL CULVER, PASHINSKI,  
PICKETT, MATZIE, HAHN, KAUFFMAN, DONATUCCI, METCALFE,  
V. BROWN, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, READSHAW, PEIFER, KORTZ, WATSON,  
GIBBONS, GILLEN, KIRKLAND AND ROZZI, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in offenses against the family,  
3 providing for the offense of failure of duty to report  
4 disappearance of a child.

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

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

9 § 4304.1. Duty to report disappearance of child.

10 (a) Offense defined.--A parent of a child under 14 years of  
11 age commits an offense if the parent, with reckless disregard  
12 for the risk of harm to the child or for the health, safety or  
13 welfare of the child, fails to report the disappearance of the  
14 child to a law enforcement agency.

15 (b) Grading.--An offense under subsection (a) constitutes a  
16 felony of the third degree.

17 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
18 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this

1 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Disappearance." Any instance in which the whereabouts of  
3 the child are unknown to the parent and have been unknown for  
4 more than 24 hours.

5 "Parent." A natural parent, stepparent, adoptive parent,  
6 guardian or custodian of a child.

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