

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1592 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY JOHNSON-HARRELL, CEPHAS, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, HARRIS, MADDEN, SHUSTERMAN, KOSIEROWSKI, KINSEY, McCLINTON, HOWARD, SOLOMON, HOHENSTEIN, DALEY, DAWKINS, FRANKEL, D. MILLER, SCHWEYER, DELLOSO, MURT, BURGOS, GALLOWAY, LEE, WHEATLEY, CALTAGIRONE, ROEBUCK, OTTEN, FIEDLER AND ULLMAN, JUNE 7, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 7, 2019

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 overnight visitation
 4 program.

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. Overnight visitation program.

10 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish a program
 11 that allows children no older than 10 years of age to stay
 12 overnight with the child's mother if the child's mother meets
 13 the following qualifications:

14 (1) the mother was the primary caretaker parent of the
 15 child or children prior to incarceration;

16 (2) the mother has not been convicted of a sex offense,
 17 child abuse or child neglect; and

1 (3) any other qualifications the department finds
2 necessary for participation in the program.

3 (b) Child visitation area.--The department shall establish a
4 secure area where both the mother and child can stay for the
5 duration of the overnight visit. The overnight area shall, at a
6 minimum, include:

7 (1) beds and bedding for both mother and child;

8 (2) games, toys or coloring books that both mother and
9 child may use; and

10 (3) any other items the department finds necessary to
11 keep both the mother and child comfortable during the visit.

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