
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1827 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KEEFER, RYAN, BERNSTINE, DeLUCA, GREINER, GABLER,
KNOWLES, RAPP, JONES, ECKER, DUSH, ZIMMERMAN AND JAMES,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in criminal homicide, further
3 providing for the offense of causing or aiding suicide.

4 This act may be referred to as Shawn's Law.

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

7 Section 1. Section 2505 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:
9 § 2505. Causing or aiding suicide.

10 * * *

11 (c) Sentencing.--

12 (1) The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, in
13 accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. § 2154 (relating to adoption of
14 guidelines for sentencing), shall provide for a sentence
15 enhancement within its guidelines for an offense under this
16 section when at the time of the offense the person who
17 committed suicide is under 18 years of age or has an
18 intellectual disability.

1 (2) For purposes of this subsection, the term
2 "intellectual disability" shall mean, regardless of the age
3 of the person, significantly subaverage general intellectual
4 functioning that is accompanied by significant limitations in
5 adaptive functioning in at least two of the following skill
6 areas:

7 (i) Communication.

8 (ii) Self-care.

9 (iii) Home living.

10 (iv) Social and interpersonal skills.

11 (v) Use of community resources.

12 (vi) Self-direction.

13 (vii) Functional academic skills.

14 (viii) Work.

15 (ix) Health.

16 (x) Safety.

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