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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1031 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY KILLION, GORDNER, COLLETT, HAYWOOD, SANTARSIERO,  
BROWNE, FONTANA, MENSCH, SCHWANK, STREET, TOMLINSON, K. WARD,  
A. WILLIAMS AND YUDICHAK, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in protection from abuse, further  
3 providing for emergency relief by minor judiciary.

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

6 Section 1. Section 6110(b) and (d) of Title 23 of the  
7 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

8 § 6110. Emergency relief by minor judiciary.

9 \* \* \*

10 (b) Expiration of order.--An order issued under subsection  
11 (a) shall expire at the end of the next business day the court  
12 deems itself available[.], unless a court by local rule provides  
13 that orders issued under subsection (a) expire when the court  
14 holds a hearing under this chapter or within 10 business days,  
15 whichever occurs sooner. Orders issued in counties that have  
16 adopted a local rule under this subsection shall be entered into  
17 the Statewide registry pursuant to section 6105(e) (relating to  
18 responsibilities of law enforcement agencies). The court shall

1 schedule hearings on protection orders entered by hearing  
2 officers under subsection (a) and shall review and continue in  
3 effect protection orders that are necessary to protect the  
4 plaintiff or minor children from abuse until the hearing, at  
5 which time the plaintiff may seek a temporary order from the  
6 court.

7 \* \* \*

8 (d) Instructions regarding the commencement of  
9 proceedings.--[Upon]

10 (1) Except in a county where by local rule an order  
11 issued under subsection (a) expires when the court holds a  
12 hearing under this chapter, upon issuance of an emergency  
13 order, the hearing officer shall provide the plaintiff  
14 instructions regarding the commencement of proceedings in the  
15 court of common pleas at the beginning of the next business  
16 day and regarding the procedures for initiating a contempt  
17 charge should the defendant violate the emergency order. The  
18 hearing officer shall also advise the plaintiff of the  
19 existence of programs for victims of domestic violence in the  
20 county or in nearby counties and inform the plaintiff of the  
21 availability of legal assistance without cost if the  
22 plaintiff is unable to pay for them.

23 (2) In a county where by local rule an order issued  
24 under subsection (a) expires when the court holds a hearing  
25 under this chapter, upon issuance of an emergency order, the  
26 hearing officer shall provide both the plaintiff and the  
27 defendant notice of the date, time and place of the hearing  
28 before the court of common pleas for the issuance of a final  
29 order or the continuation of a temporary order and shall  
30 provide the plaintiff notice of the procedures for initiating

1 a contempt charge should the defendant violate the emergency  
2 order. The hearing officer shall also advise the plaintiff of  
3 the existence of programs for victims of domestic violence in  
4 the county or in nearby counties and inform the plaintiff of  
5 the availability of legal assistance without cost if the  
6 plaintiff is unable to pay for them.

7 \* \* \*

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