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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 184 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY KEEFER, ECKER, METCALFE, SCHLOSSBERG, TOPPER,  
RYAN, RAPP, ZIMMERMAN, BROOKS, GLEIM, WARNER, HERSHEY,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER, MOUL AND TOOHIL, JANUARY 21, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 21, 2021

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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 or was aided or solicited to commit suicide  
18 is under 18 years of age or has an intellectual disability or

1 autism spectrum disorder.

2 (2) As used in this subsection, the following words and  
3 phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
4 paragraph unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Autism spectrum disorder." As defined under 42 Pa.C.S.  
6 § 5992 (relating to definitions), regardless of the age of  
7 the individual.

8 "Intellectual disability." Regardless of the age of the  
9 individual, significantly subaverage general intellectual  
10 functioning that is accompanied by significant limitations in  
11 adaptive functioning in at least two of the following skill  
12 areas:

13 (i) Communication.

14 (ii) Self-care.

15 (iii) Home living.

16 (iv) Social and interpersonal skills.

17 (v) Use of community resources.

18 (vi) Self-direction.

19 (vii) Functional academic skills.

20 (viii) Work.

21 (ix) Health.

22 (x) Safety.

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