
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1283 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, DALEY, KRAJEWSKI, KINSEY, SANCHEZ,
HANBIDGE, WARREN, McCLINTON, SCHLOSSBERG, KINKEAD, MADDEN,
FRANKEL, SCHWEYER, RABB, SIMS, FREEMAN AND INNAMORATO,
APRIL 26, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 26, 2021

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 phone calls and
4 electronic messages at correctional institutions.

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. Phone calls and electronic messages at correctional
10 institutions.

11 (a) Primary caretaker parents.--Notwithstanding any other
12 provision of law and subject to reasonable rules and regulations
13 of the correctional institution, an incarcerated individual
14 shall have the right, without expense to the incarcerated
15 individual, on a monthly basis, to make one telephone call or to
16 transmit one electronic message to each child of the
17 incarcerated individual if, prior to incarceration:

18 (1) the incarcerated individual was the primary

1 caretaker of the child; or

2 (2) the child lived with the incarcerated individual.

3 (b) Construction.--Nothing in this section may be construed
4 as prohibiting other phone calls or electronic messages by
5 incarcerated individuals in accordance with policies and
6 procedures of the correctional institution.

7 (c) Applicability.--This section shall not apply to a video
8 conference call.

9 (d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
10 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
11 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Child." An individual who is under 22 years of age.

13 "Primary caretaker parent." An individual who is a parent,
14 guardian or custodian of a child and provides more care to the
15 child than another parent, guardian or custodian of the child.

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