



## SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

### House Bill 74 Printer's No. 65

Prime Sponsor: Representative Kauffman  
Committee: Judiciary

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#### **SYNOPSIS:**

This bill amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to change the grading of the offense of endangering the welfare of a child in certain circumstances.

#### **SUMMARY:**

Under current law, the offense of endangering the welfare of a child applies in the case of any child under the age of 18 where the offender violates "a duty of care, protection or support." The offense is graded as misdemeanor of the first degree or, where there is a course of conduct, a felony of the third degree. The current statute makes no distinction based on the age of the child or the degree of risk imposed by the offender upon the child.

This bill retains the current grading of the offense, except where the offender creates a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury, in which case the offense will be graded as a felony of the third degree. If the offender's conduct creates a substantial risk of serious bodily injury and was part of a course of conduct, the offense will be graded as a felony of the second degree. Finally, if the child is under the age of six years, the offense will be increased by one grade.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This bill is effective in 60 days.

#### **BILL HISTORY:**

Passed the House of Representatives on May 6, 2015 by a vote of 196-0.

Prepared by: Cawley 9/22/2016