



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 217 Printer's No. 1502

Prime Sponsor: Representative Kauffman
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to change the grading of the offense of Endangering the Welfare of Children.

SUMMARY:

Grades the offense as a misdemeanor of the first degree, except as follows:

- If the actor engaged in a course of conduct, the offense is graded as a felony of the third degree.
- If, in the commission of the offense, the actor created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury, the offense is graded as a felony of the third degree.
- If the actor's conduct created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury and was part of a course of conduct, the offense is graded as a felony of the second degree.
- The grading of the offense shall be increased by one grade if the child was under six years of age.

Requires the court to consider ordering an individual convicted of this offense to undergo counseling.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Effective in 60 days.

COMMENT:

A parent or guardian supervising the welfare of a child commits the offense if he knowingly violates a duty of care, protection or support. Any other person commits the offense if, in an official capacity, the person prevents or interferes with the making of a report of suspected child abuse. The offense is currently graded as a misdemeanor of the first degree. Where there is a course of conduct, the offense is currently graded as a felony of the third degree.

BILL HISTORY:

Passed the House of Representatives unanimously on April 24, 2017.

Prepared by: Cawley 6/9/2017