

# PENNSYLVANIA CHILD SAFETY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NOVEMBER 2007

## 2007-2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### **Child Abuse**

House Bill 164 An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, increases penalty for sexual offenses against children, establish child protective zones whereby sexual predators may not frequent and other items.

Referred to the Judiciary Committee 2/1/07

House Bill 262 An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing, in child protective services, for definitions, for release of information in confidential reports, for investigating performance of county agency, for reports to the Governor and General Assembly, for services for prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse and for reports to Department of Public Welfare and coroner.

Referred to Judiciary Committee 2/6/07

Senate Bill 219 An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for background checks of prospective employees and for disqualifications relating to teacher's certificate.

Passed the Senate 3/13/07

Referred to House Education Committee 3/19/07

### **Child Death Review**

Senate Bill 684 Puts into law the current child death review process, defining its powers, responsibilities and duties, both at the state and local levels.

Referred to AGING AND YOUTH, March 23, 2007

### **Fire/ Burns**

House Bill 1144 This would allow eligible applicants up to \$1,000 tax credit from PA Department of Revenue to install a sprinkler system in residential occupancies up to and including four stories in height.

First Consideration 10/17/07

Re-committed to Appropriations 10/24/07

House Bill 1612 Safe Cigarette Act providing for testing standards for cigarette fire safety, for certification of compliance by manufacturers, for package markings and for enforcement and penalties; establishing special funds and providing for sale of existing inventory; for manufacturers' sale to other states or foreign countries and for regulations and preemptions.

Passed the House 10/23/07

## **Firearms**

House Bill 608 An act providing for child firearm safety lock mechanisms. Promotes safe storage and use of hand guns by consumers. Seeks to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access to or use of a hand gun, to avoid hindering industry from supplying law abiding citizens' firearms for all lawful purposes and providing the training courses to covered employees and any other school entity employees.

Referred to Judiciary 3/6/07

House Bill 20 An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the offense of access to firearms by minors; and imposing penalties. Would secure lock boxes and / or trigger locks for homes where children frequent.

Referred to Judiciary 1/30/07

House Bill 24 An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for firearm tracing. Recovered firearms from unauthorized people under 21 years old would be traced by local law enforcement agencies for origin.

Referred to Judiciary Committee 1/30/07

## **Motor Vehicle**

House Bill 246 An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, requiring that children 4 – 17 years old be required to be in appropriate child passenger restraint system.

Referred to Judiciary 2/6/07

House Bill 163 An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for junior driver's license, for learners' permits, for suspension of operating privilege and for restraint systems. Limits junior drivers to 1 passenger under 10 years old except siblings or relations who live in the same dwelling.

First Consideration 9/17/07

Re-committed to Appropriations 10/15/07

House Bill 133 An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting drivers with learner's permits or junior drivers licenses to use a mobile phone while driving.

Referred to Transportation 1/31/07

House Bill 945 An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for protective equipment for motorcycle riders.

Referred to Transportation 3/29/07

Senate Bill 41 An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting children under 10 years old from riding in the front seat of passenger vehicles. Allows a child under 10 years old to ride in the front seat, if the back seat has 3 younger children than he/she.

Referred to Transportation 2/7/07

Senate Bill 1098 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting drivers under 18 years old from using mobile phones.  
Referred to Transportation 9/28/07

Senate Bill 360 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for general requirements for safety belts on school buses.  
Referred to Transportation 3/12/07

### **Poisonings**

House Bill 137 An Act providing for lead-level testing of playgrounds, schools and parks; and making an appropriation. The Department of Health will be conducting the testing.  
Referred to Health and Human Services 1/31/07

Senate Bill 40 An Act providing for lead-level testing of child day-care and preschool facilities; establishing a grant program; and making an appropriation. The Department of Health will be conducting the testing.  
Referred to Health and Human Services 2/7/07

### **Violence**

House Bill 127 An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for Office for Safe Schools. Adds silent alert buttons as a requirement.  
Referred to Education 1/31/07

House Bill 138 Would amend the public school code to require mandatory instruction in prevention of violence in society in general and schools in particular in every grade K-12.  
Referred to Education 1/31/07

Senate Bill 71 An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L. 30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for Office for Safe Schools; and requiring the establishment of policies relating to bullying.  
Passed the Senate 3/12/07  
Re-referred to Appropriations 4/23/07

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### **To view these bills**

Check the Pennsylvania General Assembly website [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us)  
Under "Find..." "Legislation" click on "Session Information".  
Enter bill #, e.g. H3570, in the empty space.  
Click on "Bill Number".

## **Federal Legislation**

Safe Kids World Wide asks State and Local Coalitions to advocate for the Pool & Spa Safety Act U.S. Senate Bill 1771 and U.S. House Bill 1721. The House passed HB1721 on October 9, 2007 and sent the bill to the Senate.

The Pool and Spa Safety Act is intended to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by motivating states to pass laws that incorporate the “layers of protection” in order to help prevent drowning, entrapment and hair entanglements. The bill, if enacted, would provide grants to states for passing such laws, establish a federal anti-entrapment drain cover consumer product safety standard, and would fund educational programs through the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

If you would like to advocate for the Senate passage of this legislation, you can use the sample letters provided by Safe Kids World Wide at [www.Safekids.org](http://www.Safekids.org). Write our Senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey and urge them to support this legislation.