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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 156 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY OWLETT, KAUFFMAN, STEPHENS, PICKETT, RAPP,  
SCHLEGEL CULVER AND ZIMMERMAN, JANUARY 13, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 13, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in depositions and  
3 witnesses, further providing for admissibility of certain  
4 statements.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 5985.1(a)(1) introductory paragraph of  
8 Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to  
9 read:

10 § 5985.1. Admissibility of certain statements.

11 (a) General rule.--

12 (1) An out-of-court statement made by a child victim or  
13 witness, who at the time the statement was made was [12] 16  
14 years of age or younger, describing any of the offenses  
15 enumerated in paragraph (2), not otherwise admissible by  
16 statute or rule of evidence, is admissible in evidence in any  
17 criminal or civil proceeding if:

18 \* \* \*

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