
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2566 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY KIM, FRANKEL, CEPHAS, DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG,
DONATUCCI, SOLOMON, J. HARRIS, KINSEY, SIMS, HILL-EVANS,
YOUNGBLOOD AND ROEBUCK, JULY 23, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JULY 23, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating
3 to inmate confinement, further providing for healthy birth
4 for incarcerated women.

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

7 Section 1. Section 5905 of Title 61 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subsection to read:

9 § 5905. Healthy birth for incarcerated women.

10 * * *

11 (a.1) Alternative housing.--

12 (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or
13 department regulation to the contrary, the department shall
14 establish a family-centered housing unit for prisoners in the
15 custody of the department who deliver an infant upon
16 discharge from medical facilities that assist with the
17 delivery.

18 (2) A prisoner is eligible for alternative housing under

1 this section if the prisoner:

2 (i) Is incarcerated for an offense that is not a
3 crime of violence as defined under 42 Pa.C.S. § 9714(g)
4 (relating to sentences for second and subsequent
5 offenses).

6 (ii) Meets the health, mental health and safety
7 requirements for placement outside of a correctional
8 institution as determined by the department.

9 (3) An eligible prisoner shall be permitted to live with
10 the infant in the alternative housing facility for a period
11 of 18 months from the eligible prisoner's discharge from a
12 medical facility.

13 (4) The department shall:

14 (i) provide appropriate child care for the infant
15 during participation by a prisoner in required treatment,
16 programs, classes and work assignments;

17 (ii) provide access to appropriate postnatal care
18 for prisoners and infants; and

19 (iii) support mother-infant bonding.

20 (5) The department shall promulgate rules and
21 regulations as needed to implement this subsection.

22 * * *

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect in one year.