# 2C:44-6.2

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF:	2003	CHAPTER:	301				
NJSA:	2C:44-6.2	44-6.2 (DYFS determines safety of child with incarcerated parent)					
BILL NO:	A3172	(Substituted fo	or S2305/2426	i)			
SPONSOR(S): Previte and others							
DATE INTRODUCED: January 16, 2003							
<b>COMMITTEE:</b> ASSEMBLY: Family, Women and Children's Services; Health and Human Services							
SENATE: Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens							
AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes							
DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: December 25, 2003							
SENATE: January 8, 2004							
DATE OF APPROVAL: January 14, 2004							
FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:							
FINAL TEXT OF BILL (3rd reprint enacted) (Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks)							
A3172 <u>SPONSOR'S STATEMENT</u> : (Begins on page 2 of original bill) <u>Yes</u>							
	COMMITTEE	STATEMENT:		ASSEMBLY:	Yes <u>1-23-2003 (Health)</u> <u>1-23-2003 (Family)</u>		
				SENATE:	<u>Yes</u>		
	FLOOR AMEN	DMENT STATE	MENT:		Yes		
	LEGISLATIVE	FISCAL ESTIM	ATE:		No		
S2305/2426 SPONSOR'S STATEMENT (S2305): (Begins on page 2 of original bill) <u>Yes</u>							
SPONSOR'S STATEMENT (S2426): (Begins on page 2 of original bill) Yes Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A3172							
	COMMITTEE	STATEMENT:		ASSEMBLY:	No		
				SENATE: Identical to Senate S	Yes Statement for A3172		
	FLOOR AMEN	DMENT STATE	MENT:		No		
	LEGISLATIVE	FISCAL ESTIM	ATE:		No		
VETO	MESSAGE:				No		

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED: To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 103 or mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org.	
REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
<b>NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:</b> "Law toughens child-welfare rules" 1-18-2004 Home News & Tribune	Yes

\$1,3,5 -C.2C:44-6.2 to 2C:44-6.4 \$\$2,4 -C.9:6-8.10c & 9:6-8.10d \$6 - Note to \$\$1-5

#### P.L. 2003, CHAPTER 301, approved January 14, 2004 Assembly, No. 3172 (Third Reprint)

1 AN ACT concerning criminal defendants and supplementing Title 2A 2 of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 9 of the Revised Statutes. 3 4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 <sup>2</sup>[1. In any case where a person has been convicted of a crime or offense for which the person will be incarcerated, the <sup>1</sup>[county 8 prosecutor of the county where the crime or offense occurred] <u>court</u><sup>1</sup> 9 10 shall: a. determine whether the person <sup>1</sup>[has custody] is the sole 11 <u>caretaker</u><sup>1</sup> of a minor child and, if so, who will assume responsibility 12 13 for the child's care and custody during the period the person is 14 incarcerated; and b. provide the Division of Youth and Family Services in the 15 Department of Human Services with the name of the child and <sup>1</sup>, as 16 applicable, the<sup>1</sup> name and address of the person who will be 17 18 responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration.]<sup>2</sup> 19 20 21 <sup>2</sup>[2. Upon receipt of the information provided by the <sup>1</sup>[county prosecutor] <u>court<sup>1</sup></u> pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of P.L. 22 (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the 23 c. Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human 24 25 Services shall conduct a home visit to verify that: a. the home of the person who will assume responsibility for the 26 care and custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does not 27 pose an immediate threat to the safety of the <sup>1</sup>[children] <u>child</u><sup>1</sup>; and 28 29 b. the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs will be met during the period of  $]^2$ 30 31 32 <sup>2</sup><u>1. a. In any case in which a person has been convicted of a crime</u> for which the person will be incarcerated, the court shall order, as part 33 34 of the presentence investigation required pursuant to N.J.S.2C:44-6,

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in **bold-faced** brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined <u>thus</u> is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Assembly AFW committee amendments adopted January 23, 2003.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Senate SHH committee amendments adopted June 23, 2003.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Assembly floor amendments adopted December 15, 2003.

that a determination be made as to whether the person is the sole 1 2 caretaker of a minor child and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period the person is 3 4 incarcerated. 5 b. If the determination is made that the person is the sole caretaker of the child, the presentence investigation shall also include: 6 7 (1) verification that the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration has agreed 8 9 to assume responsibility for the child's care and custody; 10 (2) an inquiry as to the willingness of the person to assume 11 responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period of 12 incarceration; and (3) a PROMIS/GAVEL network check, juvenile central registry 13 check and domestic violence central registry check on the person who 14 15 will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period 16 of incarceration and on any adult and juvenile over 12 years of age in 17 the person's household. 18 c. The court shall provide the information compiled pursuant to 19 subsection b. of this section, from the presentence investigation, to the 20 Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human 21 Services.<sup>2</sup> 22 23 <sup>2</sup>2. a. Upon receiving the presentencing investigation information 24 from the court pursuant to section 1 of P.L., c. (C. )(pending 25 before the Legislature as this bill) concerning a sole caretaker of a child who will be incarcerated and the person who will assume care 26 27 and custody of the child during the period of incarceration, the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human 28 29 Services shall conduct a child abuse record information check of its 30 child abuse records to determine if an incident of child abuse or neglect has been substantiated against the person who will be 31 responsible for the child's care and custody or any adult and juvenile 32 over 12 years of age in the person's household. 33 34 b. If, based on the information provided by the court and the check of its child abuse records, the division determines that the incarcerated 35 36 person's minor child may be at risk for abuse or neglect or the child's 37 emotional, physical, health care and educational needs will not be met during the period of incarceration, the division shall take appropriate 38 39 action to ensure the safety of the child.<sup>2</sup> 40 41 <sup>2</sup><u>3. a. In any case in which a person has been convicted of a crime</u> 42 enumerated in subsection b. of this section and: 43 (1) the victim of the crime was a person under the age of 18 at the time of the commission of the crime; <sup>3</sup>[or] and<sup>3</sup> 44 45 (2) the person convicted of the crime resides in a household with

46 other minor children or is a parent of a minor child,

the court, based on an interview with the defendant, shall make a 1 2 referral to the Division of Youth and Family Services in the 3 Department of Human Services and provide the division with the name 4 and address of the person convicted of the crime, information on the person's criminal history and the name and address of each child 5 referred to in paragraph (2) of this subsection. 6 b. For purposes of this section, "crime" includes any of the 7 8 following: 9 (1) murder pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-3 or manslaughter pursuant to 10 N.J.S.2C:11-4; 11 (2) simple assault or aggravated assault pursuant to N.J.S.2C:12-1; (3) stalking pursuant to P.L.1992, c.209 (C.2C:12-10); 12 13 (4) terrorist threats pursuant to N.J.S.2C:12-3; 14 (5) kidnaping and related offenses including criminal restraint; false 15 imprisonment; interference with custody; criminal coercion; or enticing a child into a motor vehicle, structure, or isolated area pursuant to 16 17 N.J.S.2C:13-1 through 2C:13-6; (6) sexual assault, criminal sexual contact or lewdness pursuant to 18 N.J.S.2C:14-2 through N.J.S.2C:14-4; 19 (7) arson pursuant to N.J.S.2C:17-1, or causing or risking 20 21 widespread injury or damage which would constitute a crime of the 22 second degree pursuant to N.J.S.2C:17-2; 23 (8) a crime against a child, including endangering the welfare of a 24 child and child pornography pursuant to N.J.S.2C:24-4; or child abuse, 25 neglect, or abandonment pursuant to R.S.9:6-3; 26 (9) endangering the welfare of an incompetent person pursuant to 27 N.J.S.2C:24-7 or endangering the welfare of an elderly or disabled 28 person pursuant to N.J.S.2C:24-8; 29 (10) domestic violence pursuant to P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et 30 <u>seq.); or</u> 31 (11) an attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense listed in 32 paragraphs (1) through (10) of this subsection.<sup>2</sup> 33 34 <sup>2</sup><u>4. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and</u> regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, 35 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to carry out the purposes of sections 2 and 36 37 <u>3 of this act.<sup>2</sup></u> 38 <sup>2</sup>[3.] <u>5.<sup>2</sup></u> <sup>1</sup>[Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," 39 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Department of Human 40 41 Services, in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the 42 purposes of this act] <u>The Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey</u> 43 44 may adopt Rules of Court appropriate or necessary to effectuate the purposes of <sup>2</sup>sections 1 and 3 of<sup>2</sup> this act<sup>1</sup>. 45

#### A3172 [3R] 4

<sup>2</sup>[4.] <u>6.</u><sup>2</sup> This act shall take effect <sup>2</sup>[immediately] on the 90th day
<u>after enactment</u><sup>2</sup>.
<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>
7 Establishes procedures for court and DYFS to determine safety of
minor child whose child's caretaker is incarcerated.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3172 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

**INTRODUCED JANUARY 16, 2003** 

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman MARY T. PREVITE District 6 (Camden) Assemblyman GARY L. GUEAR, SR. District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex) Assemblyman WILFREDO CARABALLO District 29 (Essex and Union) Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblywoman Greenstein

#### SYNOPSIS

Requires DYFS to determine safety of minor child when custodial parent is incarcerated.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

2

1 AN ACT concerning criminal defendants and supplementing Title 2A 2 of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 9 of the Revised Statutes. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 5 of New Jersey: 6 7 1. In any case where a person has been convicted of a crime or 8 offense for which the person will be incarcerated, the county 9 prosecutor of the county where the crime or offense occurred shall: 10 a. determine whether the person has custody of a minor child and, 11 if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and custody 12 during the period the person is incarcerated; and b. provide the Division of Youth and Family Services in the 13 14 Department of Human Services with the name of the child and name and address of the person who will be responsible for the child's care 15 16 and custody during the period of incarceration. 17 18 2. Upon receipt of the information provided by the county prosecutor pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of P.L. 19 . c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Division 20 of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services 21 22 shall conduct a home visit to verify that: 23 a. the home of the person who will assume responsibility for the 24 care and custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does not 25 pose an immediate threat to the safety of the children; and b. the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs 26 27 will be met during the period of incarceration. 28 29 3. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, 30 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, shall 31 32 adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this 33 act. 34 35 4. This act shall take effect immediately. 36 37 **STATEMENT** 38 39 40 This bill directs a county prosecutor, in the case of a person who 41 has been convicted of a crime or offense for which the person will be 42 incarcerated, to: 43 Į. determine whether the person has custody of any minor child 44 and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care 45 and custody during the period the person is incarcerated; and

# A3172 PREVITE, GUEAR 3

1 ! provide the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) 2 with the name of the child and name and address of the person who will be responsible for the child care's and custody during 3 4 the period of incarceration. Under the provisions of the bill, upon receipt of the information 5 6 provided by the county prosecutor, DYFS shall conduct a home visit 7 to verify that: the home of the person who will assume responsibility 8 for the care and custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does 9 not pose a threat to the child's safety; and the child's emotional, 10 physical, health care and educational needs will be met during the

11 period of incarceration.

### STATEMENT TO

# [First Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No. 3172

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

#### DATED: JANUARY 23, 2003

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3172 (1R).

This bill is intended to ensure that the courts and the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) in the Department of Human Services follow certain procedures to assure the safety of a minor child whose sole caretaker has been incarcerated.

Specifically, the bill requires that, in any case where a person has been convicted of a crime or offense for which the person will be incarcerated, the court is to:

- C determine whether the person is the sole caretaker of a minor child and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period the person is incarcerated; and
- C provide DYFS with the name of the child and, as applicable, the name and address of the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration.

The bill further requires that DYFS, upon receipt of the information provided by the court pursuant to the bill, conduct a home visit to verify that:

- C the home of the person who will assume responsibility for the care and custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does not pose an immediate threat to the safety of the child; and
- C the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs will be met during the period of incarceration.

Finally, the bill directs the Supreme Court to adopt Rules of Court appropriate or necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

# ASSEMBLY FAMILY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

## ASSEMBLY, No. 3172

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

#### DATED: JANUARY 23, 2003

The Assembly Family, Women and Children's Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3172.

As amended by the committee, this bill directs the court, in the case of a person who has been convicted of a crime or offense for which the person will be incarcerated, to:

- ! determine whether the person is the sole caretaker of any minor child and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period the person is incarcerated; and
- ! provide the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) with the name of the child and, as applicable, the name and address of the person who will be responsible for the child care's and custody during the period of incarceration.

Under the provisions of the bill, upon receipt of the information provided by the court, DYFS shall conduct a home visit to verify that: the home of the person who will assume responsibility for the care and custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does not pose a threat to the child's safety; and the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs will be met during the period of incarceration.

#### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:**

The committee adopted amendments to:

- ! require that the court, rather than the county prosecutor, determine whether a person who will be incarcerated is the sole caretaker of a child;
- ! clarify that the court shall determine whether an incarcerated person is the sole caretaker of a minor child, instead of determining whether the person has custody of the child, as orginally provided in the bill;
- ! clarify that the court shall provide DYFS, as applicable, with the name and address of the person who will be responsible for the child's care during the parent's incarceration;

- ! permit the Supreme Court to adopt Rules of Court necessary to effectuate the purposes of the bill; and
- ! replace a reference to "children" with "child" in section 2 of the bill.

# SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

# [First Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No. 3172

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 23, 2003

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3172 (1R).

As amended by the committee, this bill provides that in the case of a person who has been convicted of a crime for which the person will be incarcerated, as part of the presentence investigation required pursuant to N.J.S.A.2C:44-6, this bill directs the court to order that a determination be made as to whether the person is the sole caretaker of any minor child and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period the person is incarcerated.

If the determination is made that the person is the sole caretaker of the child, the presentence investigation shall also include:

(1) verification that the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration has agreed to assume responsibility for the child's care and custody;

(2) an inquiry as to the willingness of the person to assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration; and

(3) a PROMIS/GAVEL network check, juvenile central registry check and domestic violence central registry check on the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration and on any adult member and juvenile who is more than 12 years of age in the person's household.

The bill provides that the court shall provide the information from the presentence investigation to the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services.

Upon receiving the presentencing investigation information from the court, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) in the Department of Human Services shall conduct a child abuse record information check of its child abuse records to determine if an incident of child abuse or neglect has been substantiated against the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody or any adult member or juvenile who is more than 12 years of age in the person's household. If, based on the information provided by the court and the check of its child abuse records, the division determines that the incarcerated person's minor child may be at risk for abuse or neglect or the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs will not be met during the period of incarceration, the division shall take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the child.

The bill also provides that in any case in which a person has been convicted of a crime (as listed below), and either the victim of the crime was a person under the age of 18 at the time of the commission of the crime, or the person convicted of the crime resides in a household with other minor children or is a parent of a minor child, the court, based on an interview with the defendant, shall make a referral to DYFS. The court shall provide DYFS with the name and address of the person convicted of the crime, information on the person's criminal history and the name and address of each minor child of the defendant and minor child who resides in the defendant's household. This requirement will apply to the following crimes:

(1) murder or manslaughter;

(2) simple assault or aggravated assault;

(3) stalking;

(4) terrorist threats;

(5) kidnaping and related offenses including criminal restraint; false imprisonment; interference with custody; criminal coercion; or enticing a child into a motor vehicle, structure, or isolated area;

(6) sexual assault, criminal sexual contact or lewdness;

(7) arson, or causing or risking widespread injury or damage which would constitute a crime of the second degree;

(8) a crime against a child, including endangering the welfare of a child and child pornography; or child abuse, neglect, or abandonment;

(9) endangering the welfare of an incompetent person or endangering the welfare of an elderly or disabled person;

(10) domestic violence; or

(11) an attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense listed above. The bill takes effect on the 90th day after enactment.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to: -- direct the court to make a determination, as part of the

presentence investigation required pursuant to N.J.S.2C:44-6, as to whether the incarcerated person is the sole caretaker of a minor child;

-- require, if the incarcerated person is the sole caretaker of a minor child, that the presentence investigation also include: verification that the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration has agreed to assume

responsibility for the child; an inquiry as to the willingness of the person to assume responsibility for the child; and PROMIS/GAVEL network, juvenile central registry and domestic violence central registry background checks on the person assuming responsibility for the child and on any adult and juvenile over the age of 12 in the person's household;

-- require that the court provide the information from the presentence investigation to DYFS;

-- require that DYFS, upon receiving the presentencing investigation information from the court conduct a child abuse record information check of its child abuse records, and if, based on the information provided by the court and the DYFS records check, DYFS determines that the incarcerated person's minor child may be at risk, DYFS shall take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the child;

-- provide that in certain cases in which a person has been convicted of a crime, the court, based on an interview with the defendant, shall make a referral to DYFS with pertinent information about the defendant and minor children who reside in the defendant's household;

-- authorize the Commissioner of Human Services to adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of the bill; and

-- provide that the bill shall take effect on the 90th day after enactment.

As amended, this bill is identical to Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 2305 and 2426 (Turner/James/Allen), which was reported by this committee on this date.

## STATEMENT TO

# [Second Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No. 3172

with Assembly Floor Amendments (Proposed By Assemblywoman PREVITE)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 5, 2003

The amendments are technical in nature, and clarify the sponsor's intent that a court referral to the Division of Youth and Family Services shall be made in any case where a person has been convicted of any crime enumerated in the bill and the victim of the crime was a person under the age of 18 at the time the crime occurred and (rather than or) the person convicted of the crime resides in a household with other minor children or is a parent of a minor child.

# SENATE, No. 2305 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2003

Sponsored by: Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER District 15 (Mercer) Senator SHARPE JAMES District 29 (Essex and Union)

#### SYNOPSIS

Requires DYFS to determine safety of minor child when custodial parent is incarcerated.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/5/2003)

2

1 AN ACT concerning criminal defendants and supplementing Title 30 of 2 the Revised Statutes. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey: 5 6 7 1. In any case where a person has been convicted of a crime or 8 offense for which the person will be incarcerated, the Division of 9 Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services shall: 10 a. determine whether the person has custody of a minor child and, 11 if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and custody 12 during the period the person is incarcerated; and 13 b. require the person to provide the division with the name of the 14 child and name and address of the person who will be responsible for 15 the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration. 16 17 2. Upon receipt of the information provided by the incarcerated 18 person pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of this act, the Division of Youth and Family Services shall conduct a home visit to verify that: 19 20 a. the home of the person who will assume responsibility for the care and custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does not 21 pose an immediate threat to the safety of the children; and 22 23 b. the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs 24 will be met during the period of incarceration. 25 3. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, 26 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human Services shall 27 28 adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this 29 act. 30 31 4. This act shall take effect immediately. 32 33 **STATEMENT** 34 35 This bill directs the Division of Youth and Family Services in the 36 Department of Human Services (DYFS), in the case of a person who 37 has been convicted of a crime or offense for which the person will be 38 incarcerated, to: 39 determine whether the person has custody of any minor child L 40 and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care 41 and custody during the period the person is incarcerated; and 42 require the person to provide DYFS with the name of the child İ 43 and name and address of the person who will be responsible for 44 the child care's and custody during the period of incarceration. 45 Under the provisions of the bill, upon receipt of the information provided by the incarcerated person, DYFS shall conduct a home visit 46

# **S2305** TURNER, JAMES 3

- 1 to verify that: the home of the person who will assume responsibility
- 2 for the care and custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does
- 3 not pose a threat to the child's safety; and the child's emotional,
- 4 physical, health care and educational needs will be met during the
- 5 period of incarceration.

# SENATE, No. 2426 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2003

Sponsored by: Senator DIANE ALLEN District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

#### SYNOPSIS

Requires DYFS to determine safety of minor child whose sole caretaker is incarcerated.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning criminal defendants and supplementing Title 2A 2 of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 9 of the Revised Statutes. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey: 5 6 7 1. In any case where a person has been convicted of a crime or 8 offense for which the person will be incarcerated, the court shall: 9 a. determine whether the person is the sole caretaker of a minor 10 child and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and 11 custody during the period the person is incarcerated; and b. provide the Division of Youth and Family Services in the 12 13 Department of Human Services with the name of the child and, as 14 applicable, the name and address of the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration. 15 16 17 2. Upon receipt of the information provided by the court pursuant 18 to subsection b. of section 1 of P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Division of Youth and Family Services 19 in the Department of Human Services shall conduct a home visit to 20 21 verify that: 22 a. the home of the person who will assume responsibility for the 23 care and custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does not 24 pose an immediate threat to the safety of the child; and 25 b. the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs 26 will be met during the period of incarceration. 27 28 3. The Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey may adopt Rules 29 of Court appropriate or necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act. 30 31 32 4. This act shall take effect immediately. 33 34 35 **STATEMENT** 36 37 This bill directs the court, in the case of a person who has been convicted of a crime or offense for which the person will be 38 39 incarcerated, to: 40 L determine whether the person is the sole caretaker of any minor 41 child and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's 42 care and custody during the period the person is incarcerated; 43 and 44 provide the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) İ 45 with the name of the child and, if applicable, the name and 46 address of the person who will be responsible for the child

1 care's and custody during the period of incarceration. 2 Under the provisions of the bill, upon receipt of the information provided by the court, DYFS shall conduct a home visit to verify that: 3 4 the home of the person who will assume responsibility for the care and 5 custody of the incarcerated person's minor child does not pose a 6 threat to the child's safety; and the child's emotional, physical, health 7 care and educational needs will be met during the period of 8 incarceration.

# SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

# SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE, Nos. 2305 and 2426

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

#### DATED: JUNE 23, 2003

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably a Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 2305 and 2426.

This substitute provides that, in the case of a person who has been convicted of a crime for which the person will be incarcerated, as part of the presentence investigation required pursuant to N.J.S.A.2C:44-6, this committee substitute directs the court to order that a determination be made as to whether the person is the sole caretaker of any minor child and, if so, who will assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period the person is incarcerated.

If the determination is made that the person is the sole caretaker of the child, the presentence investigation shall also include:

(1) verification that the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration has agreed to assume responsibility for the child's care and custody;

(2) an inquiry as to the willingness of the person to assume responsibility for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration; and

(3) a PROMIS/GAVEL network check, juvenile central registry check and domestic violence central registry check on the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody during the period of incarceration and on any adult member and juvenile who is more than 12 years of age in the person's household.

The substitute provides that the court shall provide the information from the presentence investigation to the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services.

Upon receiving the presentencing investigation information from the court, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) in the Department of Human Services shall conduct a child abuse record information check of its child abuse records to determine if an incident of child abuse or neglect has been substantiated against the person who will be responsible for the child's care and custody or any adult member or juvenile who is more than 12 years of age in the person's household. If, based on the information provided by the court and the check of its child abuse records, the division determines that the incarcerated person's minor child may be at risk for abuse or neglect or the child's emotional, physical, health care and educational needs will not be met during the period of incarceration, the division shall take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the child.

The substitute also provides that in any case in which a person has been convicted of a crime (as listed below), and either the victim of the crime was a person under the age of 18 at the time of the commission of the crime, or the person convicted of the crime resides in a household with other minor children or is a parent of a minor child, the court, based on an interview with the defendant, shall make a referral to DYFS. The court shall provide DYFS with the name and address of the person convicted of the crime, information on the person's criminal history and the name and address of each minor child of the defendant and minor child who resides in the defendant's household. This requirement will apply to the following crimes:

(1) murder or manslaughter;

(2) simple assault or aggravated assault;

(3) stalking;

(4) terrorist threats;

(5) kidnaping and related offenses including criminal restraint; false imprisonment; interference with custody; criminal coercion; or enticing a child into a motor vehicle, structure, or isolated area;

(6) sexual assault, criminal sexual contact or lewdness;

(7) arson, or causing or risking widespread injury or damage which would constitute a crime of the second degree;

(8) a crime against a child, including endangering the welfare of a child and child pornography; or child abuse, neglect, or abandonment;

(9) endangering the welfare of an incompetent person or endangering the welfare of an elderly or disabled person;

(10) domestic violence; or

(11) an attempt or conspiracy to commit an offense listed above.

The substitute takes effect on the 90th day after enactment.

This committee substitute is identical to Assembly Bill No.3172 (1R) (SCA) (Previte/Guear/Caraballo/Burzichelli), which also was reported by this committee on this date.