

Juvenile Justice

HB 1041

Brief Description: *Allowing protection orders for unlawful harassment to restrain persons under the age of eighteen.*

Sponsors: *Representatives Ballasiotes, O'Brien, Lambert, Ruderman, Woods and Hurst.*

Brief Summary of Bill

- *Authorizes a parent to petition the court for a civil anti-harassment protection order restraining a person under the age of 18 from contact with his or her child.*

Hearing Date: *1/30/01*

Staff: *Jean Ann Quinn (786-7310).*

Background:

A person being unlawfully harassed by another may petition the court for a civil anti-harassment protection order. Unlawful harassment means a knowing and wilful course of conduct aimed at a specific person that seriously alarms, annoys, harasses, or is detrimental to that person and serves no legitimate purpose. If the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that unlawful harassment exists, the court must grant an order to the petitioner prohibiting the respondent from engaging in such harassment.

The parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 may petition for an anti-harassment order restraining a person over the age of 18 from contact with that child upon a showing that such contact is detrimental to the welfare of the child. The statute does not authorize a parent to petition on behalf of child when the alleged harasser is 18 or under.

Any person who willfully violates a civil anti-harassment protection order is guilty of a

gross misdemeanor and may be held in contempt of court.

Summary of Bill:

The parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18 may petition the court for an anti-harassment order restraining a person of any age from contact with the child. It is not a requirement that the alleged harasser be over the age of 18.

Effective Date: *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Not Requested.*