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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 713 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY HOWARD, GUENST, T. DAVIS, MADDEN, WAXMAN, MAYES,  
CERRATO, SANCHEZ AND MALAGARI, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in particular rights and  
3 immunities, further providing for declaration of policy, for  
4 definitions and for scope of subchapter.

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

7 Section 1. Section 8340.12(2) of Title 42 of the  
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, added July 17, 2024  
9 (P.L.836, No.72), is amended to read:

10 § 8340.12. Declaration of policy.

11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

12 \* \* \*

13 (2) It is in the public interest to encourage continued  
14 participation in matters of public significance, including  
15 disclosure of sexual offenses. This participation should not  
16 be chilled through abuse of the judicial process.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 2. The definition of "protected public expression"  
19 in section 8340.13 of Title 42, added July 17, 2024 (P.L.836,

1 No.72), is amended to read:

2 § 8340.13. Definitions.

3 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
5 context clearly indicates otherwise:

6 \* \* \*

7 "Protected public expression." A person's:

8 (1) communication in a legislative, executive, judicial  
9 or administrative proceeding;

10 (2) communication on an issue under consideration or  
11 review in a legislative, executive, judicial or  
12 administrative proceeding; [or]

13 (3) exercise, on a matter of public concern, of the  
14 rights of freedom of speech or of the press, the right to  
15 assemble or petition or the right of association, guaranteed  
16 by:

17 (i) the First Amendment to the Constitution of the  
18 United States; or

19 (ii) section 7 or 20 of Article I of the  
20 Constitution of Pennsylvania[.]; or

21 (4) communication of an allegation of abuse, as defined  
22 under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6102 (relating to definitions), or  
23 allegation of sexual violence, as defined under section 62A03  
24 (relating to definitions), provided the communication is not  
25 malicious.

26 \* \* \*

27 Section 3. Section 8340.14(b)(5) of Title 42, added July 17,  
28 2024 (P.L.836, No.72), is amended to read:

29 § 8340.14. Scope of subchapter.

30 \* \* \*

1 (b) Exclusions.--This subchapter does not apply to any of  
2 the following claims asserted in a civil action:

3 \* \* \*

4 (5) Arising under [any of the following:

5 (i) 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to protection from  
6 abuse).

7 (ii) Chapter 62A (relating to protection of victims  
8 of sexual violence or intimidation).

9 (iii) The] the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682,  
10 No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921.

11 \* \* \*

12 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 90 days.