

No. 1981-173

AN ACT

HB 696

Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for summary criminal contempt proceedings for persons who willfully fail to comply with lawful support orders.

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

Section 1. Title 18, act of November 25, 1970 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 4324. Willful failure to pay support order.

(a) Offense defined.—Any person who has willfully failed to comply with the support order of any court within this Commonwealth when he had the financial ability to do so shall be guilty of a summary offense.

(b) Application of section.—This offense shall apply to all support cases, whether civil or criminal in nature, and whether the person charged is married, unmarried, separated or divorced.

(c) Jurisdiction.—Exclusive original jurisdiction to hear the summary offense proceedings under this section shall be vested in the courts of common pleas of the various counties.

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

APPROVED—The 23rd day of December, A. D. 1981.

DICK THORNBURGH