

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2388

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 18, 2012

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2388.

This bill as amended provides that the court may order parenting time provisions that include the use of electronic communication. The term “parenting time” as used in the amended bill means in-person time spent between the child’s parent with whom the child does not reside and the child. The amended bill provides that in appropriate circumstances, parenting time may include electronic communication under conditions and at times determined by the court.

Under the bill, the term “electronic communication” means time that a parent spends with his or her child during which the child is not in the parent’s actual physical custody, but which is facilitated by the use of communication tools such as the telephone, electronic mail, instant messaging, video conferencing or other wired or wireless technologies via the Internet, or another medium of communication.

As introduced, the bill had referred to “visitation” instead of “parenting time.” The committee amended the bill to change the references from “visitation” to “parenting time” in order to reflect current usage.

This bill is based on a 2009 Illinois enactment, Public Act 096-0331.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

1. Amend title to change the term “visitation of a minor child” to “parenting time.”
2. Amend section 1 to change the term “visitation” to “parenting time.”
3. Amend synopsis to change the term “visitation” to “parenting time.”