

2007 -- H 5287

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2007

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- CHILDREN

Introduced By: Representatives O'Neill, Jackson, and Sullivan

Date Introduced: February 01, 2007

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 11-9 of the General Laws entitled "Children" is hereby amended by  
2 adding thereto the following section:

3 **11-9-5.4. Unattended children in motor vehicles..** – Every person having custody or  
4 control of a child five (5) years of age or younger and who leaves the child unattended in any  
5 motor vehicle shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

6 SECTION 2. Section 31-22-22.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-22 entitled  
7 "Miscellaneous Rules" is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 **31-22-22.1. Child passenger protection -- Warnings of hazard and risk.** -- (a) All law  
9 enforcement officers in this state are authorized to provide a verbal warning to any person who  
10 shall be deemed to have left a child over the age of five (5) and under the age of seven (7)  
11 unattended in a motor vehicle. The warning shall apprise the offending person of the dangers of  
12 this practice including, but not limited to, the risk of kidnapping and/or abduction, and the  
13 dangers which may result from the accumulation of excessive temperatures within the motor  
14 vehicle.

15 (b) No fine or sanction shall be imposed for a violation of this section, other than a  
16 verbal warning, and no record of any kind shall be maintained of the warning.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would make it a misdemeanor to leave a child five (5) years or younger in any  
2 unattended motor vehicle. This act would also authorize law enforcement officers to issue verbal  
3 warnings to operators of motor vehicles who leave children unattended if the children are over  
4 age five (5) and under age seven (7). No record of any kind would be maintained of the warning.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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