

ASSEMBLY, No. 5017

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblymen Mazzeo, Armato, Rooney,

Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttel, Downey and Assemblyman Houghtaling

SYNOPSIS

Establishes penalties for leaving child unattended in motor vehicle.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/15/2019)

A5017 LAND, MILAM

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1 AN ACT establishing penalties for leaving a child unattended in a
2 motor vehicle and supplementing Title 39 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. No person operating or in control of a motor vehicle shall
9 leave a child under six years of age unattended in the motor vehicle
10 when the motor vehicle is out of the person's sight and under
11 circumstances or conditions which endanger the health, safety, or
12 welfare of the child.

13 b. This section shall apply to vehicles on public highways, as
14 defined in section 3 of P.L. 1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-3), and in parking
15 lots.

16 A person who violates this section shall be subject, for a first
17 offense, to a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500. For any
18 subsequent violation the person shall be subject to a fine of not less
19 than \$500 or more than \$1,000. It is a separate offense for each
20 child left unattended in the motor vehicle.

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22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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25 STATEMENT

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27 This bill creates penalties for leaving a child under six years of
28 age unattended in a motor vehicle on a public highway or in a
29 parking lot. A person is subject to these penalties when the motor
30 vehicle is out of the person's sight and under circumstances or
31 conditions which endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the
32 child. A person who violates the provisions of this bill is subject to
33 a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 for a first violation
34 and not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000 for subsequent
35 violations. It is a separate offense for each child left unattended in
36 the motor vehicle.

37 When a child is left in a vehicle alone, even for a short time, the
38 child is in danger of abduction, injury, dehydration, and death. The
39 temperature inside a car can become dangerously hot. In the United
40 States between 1998 and 2016, 683 children died from heat stroke
41 after being left unattended in a hot car. Twelve of those children
42 were from New Jersey.