

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 118

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges US Congress support “Hot Cars Act of 2019.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to  
2       support the “Hot Cars Act of 2019.”  
3  
4   **WHEREAS**, Vehicular heatstroke, a potentially fatal illness resulting  
5       from the heat inside a vehicle that causes the body’s internal  
6       temperature to rise to dangerous levels, is a significant public health  
7       and safety problem; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, Vehicular heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash,  
9       vehicle-related deaths for children under 15 years old, and is  
10      primarily a result of an individual forgetting a child or domestic  
11      animal in a vehicle’s backseat, or a child accessing an unattended  
12      vehicle; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, In 2018, at least 52 children died from vehicular heatstroke  
14      in the United States; and  
15   **WHEREAS**, The interior of vehicles heat up quicker than individuals  
16      might imagine, potentially rising 20 degrees Fahrenheit within  
17      just ten minutes; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, On a 95-degree Fahrenheit day, a vehicle’s interior can  
19      reach up to 180 degrees; and  
20   **WHEREAS**, Even when the outside temperature is as low as 57  
21      degrees Fahrenheit, vehicular heatstroke can still occur; and  
22   **WHEREAS**, Opening windows does little to mitigate the risks of  
23      vehicular heatstroke once the vehicle is turned off; and  
24   **WHEREAS**, A child’s body heats up three to five times faster than  
25      an adult’s does, leaving children even more susceptible to the  
26      dangers of vehicular heatstroke; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, Technology currently exists to detect the presence of a  
28      child or animal in the rear seat of a vehicle, after the vehicle  
29      engine or motor is deactivated, and engage a warning; and  
30   **WHEREAS**, The “Hot Cars Act of 2019” would direct the United States  
31      Secretary of Transportation to issue a final rule requiring all new  
32      passenger motor vehicles be equipped with this technology; and  
33   **WHEREAS**, In developing the rule, the “Hot Cars Act of 2019” also  
34      instructs the United States Secretary of Transportation to  
35      consider requiring systems that detect the presence of any  
36      occupant unable to independently exit the vehicle, as well as  
37      detect the presence of a child who independently entered an  
38      unoccupied vehicle; and  
39   **WHEREAS**, The “Hot Cars Act of 2019” would considerably reduce  
40      the number of injuries and deaths resulting from forgotten  
41      children and animals in unattended vehicles, as well as instances  
42      in which children independently access an unoccupied vehicle;  
43      now, therefore,  
44  
45        **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
46      *Jersey:*



**AR118 PINKIN**

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- 1 number of injuries and deaths resulting from forgotten children and
- 2 animals in unattended vehicles, as well as instances in which
- 3 children independently access an unoccupied vehicle.