

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 AUG -1 P4:42

SENATE
S. No. 1199

RECEIVED BY: *ju*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Leaving a child unattended in a car can often have tragic consequences, either because the child suffers from exposure to excessive heat, is injured when the car is stolen, releases the emergency brake, inadvertently starts the car, or puts the car in gear.

Parents and caregivers know it is not safe to leave children home alone and unattended, but they continue to leave children unattended in a car even though it is just as dangerous, or more so. Stronger laws will give law enforcement officers a preventive tool with which to work, similar to the effect of the seat belt safety law.*

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.



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SENATE
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1 AN ACT
2 PROHIBITING UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

3 SECTION 1. *Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles.* – A parent, legal guardian, or other
4 person responsible for a child or children twelve (12) years of age or younger shall not leave
5 such child or children inside a motor vehicle without supervision by a person who is sixteen (16)
6 years of age or older under one or more of the following circumstances :

7 (A) Under conditions presenting a significant risk to the child's health or safety;

8 (B) The engine of the motor vehicle is running; or

9 (C) The keys to the motor vehicle are anywhere in the passenger compartment of the
10 motor vehicle.

11 SECTION 2. *Penalty.* – Any violation of section 1 of this Act shall be punishable by a
12 penalty of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00) for the first offense, Ten Thousand Pesos
13 (₱10,000.00) for the second offense, and confiscation of the offender's driver's license and a fine
14 of Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) upon the third and final offense.

15 SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
16 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
17 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or
2 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
3 modified accordingly.

4 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
5 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,