

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 651

S.P. 229

In Senate, January 26, 1999

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### **An Act to Prohibit Leaving a Child Alone in a Motor Vehicle.**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MacKINNON of York.  
Cosponsored by Senators: BENOIT of Franklin, DAVIS of Piscataquis, Representatives:  
MacDOUGALL of North Berwick, MURPHY of Berwick.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §554, sub-§1, ¶B-1, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. C, §4 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

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B-1. Being the parent, foster parent, guardian or other person having the care and custody of the child, cruelly treats that child by abuse, neglect or extreme punishment; or

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Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §554, sub-§1, ¶B-2 is enacted to read:

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B-2. Leaves a child under 5 years of age unattended in a motor vehicle. For the purposes of this paragraph, "unattended" means out of eyesight of the person and there is not a person over 12 years of age in the vehicle.

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Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §554, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499, §1, is amended to read:

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3. Endangering the welfare of a child is a Class D crime, except that leaving a child under 5 years of age unattended in a motor vehicle as defined in subsection 1, paragraph B-2 is a Class E crime.

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SUMMARY

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This bill makes leaving a child under 5 years of age unattended in a motor vehicle a Class E crime.