

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3581**



Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
TO PROHIBIT UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES

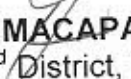
EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is always that danger when people leave their children unattended inside their motor vehicle. This could result to injuries and even death in some situations. These injuries and deaths include heat stroke, a motor vehicle accidentally put in motion by a child, choking while inside a vehicle, being kidnapped, inhaling toxic fumes, activation of automatic power controls, or being trapped in the vehicle's trunk. But these things are preventable and predictable. It only takes vigilance to prevent such incidents from happening over and over.

This bill is being proposed to heed the urgent call instilling public awareness about the dangers of leaving children unattended inside motor vehicles. It is really sad that this is being practiced every day for a variety of reasons, not knowing of the risks involved. It must be remembered that once a child gets into a vehicle, they are not capable of getting out due to lack in developmental skills.

The Author believes that through legislation and education, the injuries and deaths caused by the dangerous practice of leaving children unattended in motor vehicles can be greatly reduced. Parents, relatives or guardians should always be made aware that unsupervised children inside a motor vehicle pose a grave threat to their safety and unnecessary emotional burden to their families.

In light of the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is highly encouraged.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles.* - A parent, legal guardian, or any other person responsible for a child or children who are eight (8) years of age or younger shall not leave such child or children inside a motor vehicle without supervision by a person who is fourteen (14) years of age or older, under one or more of the following circumstances:

- A) Under conditions presenting a significant risk to the child's health or safety;
- B) The engine of the motor vehicle is running; or
- C) The keys to the motor vehicle are anywhere in the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle.

SECTION 2. *Penalty.* - Any violation of section 1 of this Act shall be punishable by a penalty of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for the first offense, Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) for the second offense, and confiscation of the offender's driver's license and a fine of Fifty thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) upon the third and final offense.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, policies, programs or parts thereof, that are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected hereby, shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,