

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 1920

Introduced by: **HON. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

AN ACT TO PROHBIT UNATTENDED CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is an urgent call for a law to call forth public awareness about the dangers of leaving unattended inside motor vehicles. The deaths and injuries caused by leaving children unattended in motor vehicles are predictable and preventable. These injuries and deaths were caused by heat stroke, a motor vehicle being put in motion by a child, children choking while alone in a car, being kidnapped, toxic fumes, activation of automatic power controls, or being trapped in a car trunk. We leave children unaccompanied in motor vehicles every day for a variety of reasons, not knowing of the risks associated with leaving them alone. Once a child gets into a vehicle, they often do not have developmental skills to get themselves out again.

Accordingly, through legislation and education the practice of leaving children unattended vehicles can be greatly reduced with increased awareness and understanding of the risks associated with this dangerous practice. Children in no way should be left unattended inside motor vehicles.

Immediate passage of this bill is highly needed.

"KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

*Representative
First District of Bulacan*

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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 other person responsible for a child or children who are eight years of age or younger shall not leave such child or children inside a motor vehicle without supervision by a person who is fourteen 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 (PHP 5,000.00) for the first offense, Ten Thousand Pesos (PHP 10,000.00) for the second offense, and confiscation of the offender's driver's license and a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PHP 50,000.00) 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 provisions 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) newspaper of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,

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