

HOUSE BILL NO. 285

INTRODUCED BY C. PEASE-LOPEZ

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROHIBITING LEAVING AN UNATTENDED CHILD IN A MOTOR VEHICLE; SETTING PENALTIES; AND PROVIDING FOR EDUCATION ON THE DANGERS OF AND PENALTIES FOR LEAVING A CHILD UNATTENDED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Short title.** [Sections 1 through 6] may be cited as the "Unattended Child in Motor Vehicle Safety Act".

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of [sections 1 through 6] is to protect innocent children from being injured or dying when left alone in a motor vehicle.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Definitions.** As used in [sections 1 through 6], the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning provided in 61-1-101.
- (2) "Unattended child" means a child 8 years of age or younger who is not accompanied by another individual who is at least 14 years of age.

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Prohibition on leaving unattended child in motor vehicle.** A person may not leave an unattended child in a motor vehicle if:

- (1) the conditions present a risk to the child's health or safety; or
- (2) the engine of the motor vehicle is running or the keys to the motor vehicle are left in the motor vehicle.

NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Penalty.** (1) A person who violates [section 4] is subject to a civil penalty as follows:

- (a) for a first violation, a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$500; and
- (b) for a second or subsequent violation, a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000.



