

Florida

Department of Education

Bill Number: Senate Bill 2 (Enrolled)

Bill Title: Unattended Child in Motor Vehicle

Bill Sponsor: Senator Dawson; Co-introducers Senators Lynn, Argenziano, Lawson, and Hill

Effective Date: July 1, 2007

DOE Contact: Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner, Finance and Operations, (850) 245-0406

Executive Summary:

This act revises s. 316.6135, F.S., to specify that any person who leaves a child unattended or unsupervised in a motor vehicle for more than 15 minutes, or if the motor is running, or the health of the child is in danger, has committed a second-degree misdemeanor, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, F.S. Current law provides that this offense is a noncriminal traffic infraction. The bill adds a new provision that any person who leaves a child unattended or unsupervised in a motor vehicle resulting in great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement to the child has committed a third-degree felony, punishable as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, or 775.084, F.S. School buses are included within the definition of "motor vehicle" for the purposes of s. 316.6135, F.S.