

Senate Bill No. 287–Senator Wiener

Joint Sponsor: Assemblyman Horne

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to crimes; prohibiting a person from knowingly and intentionally leaving a child who is 7 years of age or younger in a motor vehicle without certain supervision in certain circumstances; authorizing a prosecuting attorney to inquire into and inspect sealed records concerning such an offense under certain circumstances; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law provides criminal penalties for the abuse, neglect or endangerment of a child. Such penalties include punishment for a category A felony with the possibility of imprisonment for life if the child suffers substantial bodily harm or punishment for a category B felony or a category C felony depending on the circumstances. (NRS 200.508-200.5085) In addition, existing law authorizes the district attorney to refer a person who is suspected of committing an act that may constitute abuse and neglect of a child for treatment and counseling. (NRS 200.5081)

This bill prohibits a parent, legal guardian or other person who is responsible for a child who is 7 years of age or younger from knowingly and intentionally leaving the child in a motor vehicle without the supervision of a person who is at least 12 years of age if: (1) the conditions present a significant risk to the health and safety of the child; or (2) the engine of the motor vehicle is running or the keys to the vehicle are in the ignition. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor. However, this bill allows a court to suspend the proceedings and dismiss the proceedings if the person completes an educational program satisfactory to the court. This bill further provides that the penalties of this provision do not apply if the person may be prosecuted under another provision of law. Thus, if the conduct of the parent, legal guardian or other person rises to the level of abuse or neglect of the child, this provision would not apply.

Existing law provides for the sealing of records related to the arrest and prosecution of a person for a crime, including the sealing of records after charges are dismissed or a person is acquitted of the charges. (NRS 179.255) After the records are sealed, all proceedings related to the record are deemed never to have occurred. (NRS 179.285) Nevertheless, in limited circumstances, certain persons may inspect sealed records. (NRS 179.301)

This bill amends the provision which authorizes certain persons to inspect sealed records to authorize a prosecuting attorney to inquire into and inspect such records if: (1) the records relate to a violation or alleged violation of the prohibition on leaving a child who is 7 years of age or younger in a motor vehicle without the required supervision; and (2) the person who is the subject of the records has been arrested or issued a citation for a violation of that provision.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 202 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. A parent, legal guardian or other person responsible for a child who is 7 years of age or younger shall not knowingly and intentionally leave that child in a motor vehicle if:

(a) The conditions present a significant risk to the health and safety of the child; or

(b) The engine of the motor vehicle is running or the keys to the vehicle are in the ignition,

↪ unless the child is being supervised by and within the sight of a person who is at least 12 years of age.

2. A person who violates the provisions of subsection 1 is guilty of a misdemeanor. The court may suspend the proceedings against a person who is charged with violating subsection 1 and dismiss the proceedings against the person if the person presents proof to the court, within the time specified by the court, that he has successfully completed an educational program satisfactory to the court. The educational program must include, without limitation, information concerning the dangers of leaving a child unattended or inadequately attended in a motor vehicle.

3. A law enforcement officer or other person rendering emergency services who reasonably believes that a violation of this section has occurred may, without incurring civil liability, use any reasonable means necessary to protect the child and to remove the child from the motor vehicle.

4. No person may be prosecuted under this section if the conduct would give rise to prosecution under any other provision of law.

5. The provisions of this section do not apply to a person who unintentionally locks a motor vehicle with a child in the vehicle.

6. As used in this section, "motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is self-propelled but not operated upon rails.

Sec. 2. NRS 179.301 is hereby amended to read as follows:

179.301 1. The State Gaming Control Board and the Nevada Gaming Commission and their employees, agents and representatives may inquire into and inspect any records sealed pursuant to NRS 179.245 or 179.255, if the event or conviction was related to gaming, to determine the suitability or qualifications of any person to hold a state gaming license, manufacturer's, seller's or distributor's license or registration as a gaming employee pursuant to chapter 463 of NRS. Events and convictions, if any, which are the subject of an order sealing records:

(a) May form the basis for recommendation, denial or revocation of those licenses.

(b) Must not form the basis for denial or rejection of a gaming work permit unless the event or conviction relates to the applicant's suitability or qualifications to hold the work permit.

2. *A prosecuting attorney may inquire into and inspect any records sealed pursuant to NRS 179.245 or 179.255 if:*

(a) The records relate to a violation or alleged violation of section 1 of this act; and

(b) The person who is the subject of the records has been arrested or issued a citation for violating section 1 of this act.

3. The Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History and its employees may inquire into and inspect any records sealed pursuant to NRS 179.245 or 179.255 that constitute information relating to sexual offenses, and may notify employers of the information in accordance with NRS 179A.180 to 179A.240, inclusive.

~~13.1~~ 4. Records which have been sealed pursuant to NRS 179.245 or 179.255 and which are retained in the statewide registry established pursuant to NRS 179B.200 may be inspected pursuant to chapter 179B of NRS by an officer or employee of the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History or a law enforcement officer in the regular course of his duties.

~~14.1~~ 5. As used in this section:

(a) "Information relating to sexual offenses" means information contained in or concerning a record of criminal history, or the records of criminal history of the United States or another state, relating in any way to a sexual offense.

(b) "Sexual offense" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 179A.073.

