



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Raised Bill No. 1048**

LCO No. 4011



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE TO A MISDEMEANOR CONCERNING THE SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 53-21a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (a) Any parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or  
5 providing supervision, of any child under the age of twelve years who  
6 knowingly leaves such child unsupervised in a place of public  
7 accommodation or a motor vehicle for a period of time that presents a  
8 substantial risk to the child's health or safety, shall be guilty of a class A  
9 misdemeanor. In any prosecution for a violation of this subsection, it  
10 shall be an affirmative defense that the defendant, at the time the  
11 defendant engaged in the conduct constituting the violation, exercised  
12 reasonable judgment in determining that the child was of sufficient age,  
13 maturity, physical ability and mental ability to be left unsupervised.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	53-21a(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish an affirmative defense to a misdemeanor concerning the supervision of children under twelve years of age.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*