



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1133

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING CIRCUMSTANCES PRESENTING A
SUBSTANTIAL RISK TO A CHILD'S HEALTH OR SAFETY.**

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2023*):

4 (a) (1) 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
9 A misdemeanor.

10 (2) In determining whether an action constitutes a violation of this
11 subsection, (A) consideration shall be given to whether or not the
12 parent, guardian or person having custody or control, or providing
13 supervision, of a child under the age of twelve years exercised
14 judgment that a reasonable person would use in determining whether
15 the child was of sufficient age, maturity, physical ability and mental
16 ability to be unsupervised under the circumstances, and (B) no finding
17 of substantial risk may be based solely on a parent, guardian or person
18 having custody or control, or providing supervision, of such child

19 allowing such child's participation in independent activities, including,
20 but not limited to, traveling to and from school, traveling to and from
21 commercial or recreational facilities located near such child's home and
22 unsupervised outdoor play, provided such child is of sufficient age,
23 maturity, physical ability and mental ability to engage in such
24 activities and the child's participation would not lead a reasonable
25 person to believe that such participation creates an obvious danger to
26 the child's safety.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	October 1, 2023	53-21a(a)
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JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*