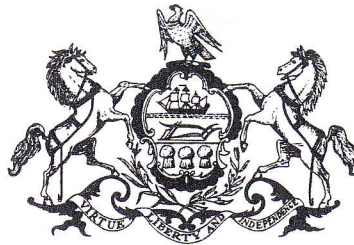


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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LEGISLATORS
PRE-K
WOMEN'S HEALTH

To: All House Members

From: Representative Mike O'Brien

Date: September 28, 2011

Re: Legislation Co-Sponsorship Requests

I am planning to introduce **two** pieces of legislation which will address the issue of unattended children who are left in a vehicle while the vehicle operator patronizes a casino.

As you may be aware, there have now been 10 documented instances of such behavior since February 2010 at the Parx Casino in Bensalem alone. Most recently, on September 19, 2011, grandparents left three minors – ages 12, 7 and 2 - in a vehicle at the SugarHouse casino in Philadelphia.

I believe it is imperative to establish a strong disincentive for such actions.

My first bill will amend the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act (Title 4) to:

- Prohibit any person who is driving or in charge of a motor vehicle from leaving a child under age 14 unattended in such vehicle on property owned, leased or controlled by a licensed gaming facility;
- Mandate that such person be subject to exclusion or ejection from all licensed gaming facilities, as currently outlined in the Gaming Act;
- Require law enforcement to notify the appropriate children and youth agency within 48 hours of the violation; and
- Require a licensed facility to report violations of unattended children in vehicles and imposes a penalty for failure to report.

SEP 29 2011

Under this proposal, a violation will be graded as a 3rd degree misdemeanor, and a second or subsequent conviction will be classified as a 2nd degree misdemeanor.

My second bill also amends the Gaming Act and is a preventative measure to warn individuals of the consequences of leaving their children unattended in a vehicle. This bill will:

- Require each licensed facility to conspicuously post warning signs regarding the penalties for leaving a child unattended in a vehicle in their parking area;
- Fine the licensed facility \$1,000 a day for the days the signs are not posted; and
- Grant power to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to levy fines against the licensed facility for repeated violations of individuals leaving their children unattended in a vehicle on their property.

These incidents represent a direct threat to the safety, health and welfare of young children, and each instance could have easily resulted in tragedy. I feel that it is necessary to send a strong message in order to curb this type of irresponsible behavior and protect our children.

If you would like to join me in sponsoring one or both of these initiatives, please contact John McDermott at 783-8098 or by email at jmcdermo@pahouse.net