

HOUSE BILL 10

D4, E2

8lr0560

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Ali and Dumais**

Requested: August 28, 2007

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2008

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Unattended Child Protection Act of 2008**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum penalty for a person convicted of
4 allowing a child who is under a certain age and in the person's care to be locked
5 or confined in a dwelling, building, enclosure, or motor vehicle under certain
6 circumstances; and generally relating to penalties for leaving children
7 unattended.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Family Law
10 Section 5–801
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Family Law**

16 5–801.

17 (a) A person who is charged with the care of a child under the age of 8 years
18 may not allow the child to be locked or confined in a dwelling, building, enclosure, or
19 motor vehicle while the person charged is absent and the dwelling, building, enclosure,
20 or motor vehicle is out of the sight of the person charged unless the person charged
21 provides a reliable person at least 13 years old to remain with the child to protect the
22 child.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
2 conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding [\$500] **\$2,000** or imprisonment not
3 exceeding [30 days] **3 YEARS**, or both.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2008.