

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL DRS45271-CN-3

Short Title: Revise Neglected Juvenile Definition. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lee, Chaudhuri, and Burgin (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF NEGLECTED JUVENILE TO EXEMPT
3 CERTAIN INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 7B-101(15) reads as rewritten:

6 "(15) Neglected juvenile. – Any juvenile less than 18 years of age (i) who is found
7 to be a minor victim of human trafficking under G.S. 14-43.15 or (ii) whose
8 parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker does any of the following:

- 9 a. Does not provide proper care, supervision, or discipline.
10 b. Has abandoned the juvenile, except where that juvenile is a safely
11 surrendered infant as defined in this Subchapter.
12 c. Has not provided or arranged for the provision of necessary medical
13 or remedial care.
14 d. Or whose parent, guardian, or custodian has refused to follow the
15 recommendations of the Juvenile and Family Team made pursuant to
16 Article 27A of this Chapter.
17 e. Creates or allows to be created a living environment that is injurious
18 to the juvenile's welfare.
19 f. Has participated or attempted to participate in the unlawful transfer of
20 custody of the juvenile under G.S.14-321.2.
21 g. Has placed the juvenile for care or adoption in violation of law.

22 In determining whether a juvenile is a neglected juvenile, it is relevant whether
23 that juvenile lives in a home where another juvenile has died as a result of
24 suspected abuse or neglect or lives in a home where another juvenile has been
25 subjected to abuse or neglect by an adult who regularly lives in the home.

26 It shall not be considered neglect of a juvenile if a parent, guardian, custodian,
27 or caretaker allows the juvenile to engage in independent activities without
28 adult supervision if a reasonable and prudent parent would consider the
29 independent activity safe and appropriate based on the juvenile's age,
30 maturity, and physical and mental abilities. For purposes of this subdivision,
31 independent activities include (i) travelling to and from school, including
32 walking, running, or bicycling, (ii) travelling to and from nearby commercial
33 or recreational facilities, (iii) remaining at home for a reasonable period of
34 time, and (iv) playing outdoors."

35 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.



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