

As Reported by the Senate Civil Justice Committee

131st General Assembly

Regular Session

2015-2016

Sub. S. B. No. 215

Senators Hughes, LaRose

Cosponsors: Senators Uecker, Bacon

A BILL

To enact sections 959.133 and 2151.88 of the 1
Revised Code to grant a person immunity from 2
civil liability for any damage resulting from 3
the forcible entry of a motor vehicle for the 4
purpose of removing a minor or an animal from 5
the vehicle because the minor or the animal is 6
in imminent danger of suffering harm. 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 959.133 and 2151.88 of the 8
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

Sec. 959.133. (A) Except as provided in division (C) of 10
this section, a person shall be immune from civil liability for 11
any damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle 12
for the purpose of removing an animal from the vehicle if the 13
person does all of the following: 14

(1) Determines the vehicle is locked or there is otherwise 15
no reasonable method for the animal to exit the vehicle. 16

(2) Has a good faith belief that forcible entry into the 17
vehicle is necessary because the animal is in imminent danger of 18

suffering harm if not immediately removed from the vehicle and, 19
based upon the circumstances known to the person at the time, 20
the belief is a reasonable one. 21

(3) Has made a good faith effort to contact the local law 22
enforcement agency, the fire department, or a 9-1-1 operator 23
prior to forcibly entering the vehicle. If contact is not 24
possible prior to forcibly entering the vehicle, the person 25
shall make contact as soon as possible after forcibly entering 26
the vehicle. 27

(4) Makes a good faith effort to place a notice on the 28
vehicle's windshield with the person's contact information, the 29
reason the entry was made, the location of the animal, and the 30
fact that the authorities have been notified. 31

(5) Remains with the animal in a safe location until law 32
enforcement or emergency responders arrive. 33

(6) Used not more force to enter the vehicle and remove 34
the animal from the vehicle than was necessary under the 35
circumstances. 36

(B) Nothing in this section shall affect the person's 37
civil liability if the person attempts to render aid to the 38
animal in addition to what is authorized by this section. 39

(C) A person shall not be immune from civil liability for 40
any damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle 41
for the purpose of removing an animal from the vehicle if the 42
person's actions constitute recklessness or willful or wanton 43
misconduct with regard to the forcible entry of the motor 44
vehicle. 45

(D) As used in this section, "harm" means injury or death. 46

Sec. 2151.88. (A) Except as provided in division (C) of 47
this section, a person shall be immune from civil liability for 48
any damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle 49
for the purpose of removing a minor from the vehicle if the 50
person does all of the following: 51

(1) Determines the vehicle is locked or there is otherwise 52
no reasonable method for the minor to exit the vehicle. 53

(2) Has a good faith belief that forcible entry into the 54
vehicle is necessary because the minor is in imminent danger of 55
suffering harm if not immediately removed from the vehicle and, 56
based upon the circumstances known to the person at the time, 57
the belief is a reasonable one. 58

(3) Has made a good faith effort to contact the local law 59
enforcement agency, the fire department, or a 9-1-1 operator 60
prior to forcibly entering the vehicle. If contact is not 61
possible prior to forcibly entering the vehicle, the person 62
shall make contact as soon as possible after forcibly entering 63
the vehicle. 64

(4) Makes a good faith effort to place a notice on the 65
vehicle's windshield with the person's contact information, the 66
reason the entry was made, the location of the minor, and the 67
fact that the authorities have been notified. 68

(5) Remains with the minor in a safe location until law 69
enforcement or emergency responders arrive. 70

(6) Used not more force to enter the vehicle and remove 71
the minor from the vehicle than was necessary under the 72
circumstances. 73

(B) Nothing in this section shall affect the person's 74
civil liability if the person attempts to render aid to the 75

minor in addition to what is authorized by this section. 76

(C) A person shall not be immune from civil liability for 77
any damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle 78
for the purpose of removing a minor from the vehicle if the 79
person's actions constitute recklessness or willful or wanton 80
misconduct with regard to the forcible entry of the motor 81
vehicle. 82

(D) As used in this section, "harm" means injury or death. 83