

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 655

Representative Williams

Cosponsor: Representative Johnson

To amend section 2919.24 of the Revised Code to
create the offense of neglect of parental
duties.

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

Section 1. That section 2919.24 of the Revised Code be
amended to read as follows:

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Sec. 2919.24. (A) As used in this section:

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(1) "Delinquent child" has the same meaning as in section
2152.02 of the Revised Code.

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(2) "Unruly child" has the same meaning as in section
2151.022 of the Revised Code.

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(B) No person, including a parent, guardian, or other
custodian of a child, shall do any of the following:

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(1) Aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage, or contribute to
a child or a ward of the juvenile court becoming an unruly child
or a delinquent child;

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(2) Act in a way tending to cause a child or a ward of the
juvenile court to become an unruly child or a delinquent child;

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(3) Act in a way that contributes to an adjudication of
the child as a delinquent child based on the child's violation
of a court order adjudicating the child an unruly child for
being an habitual truant; 18
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(4) If the person is the parent, guardian, or custodian of
a child who has the duties under Chapters 2152. and 2950. of the
Revised Code to register, register a new residence address, and
periodically verify a residence address, and, if applicable, to
send a notice of intent to reside, and if the child is not
emancipated, as defined in section 2919.121 of the Revised Code,
fail to ensure that the child complies with those duties under
Chapters 2152. and 2950. of the Revised Code; 22
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(5) If the child has been previously adjudicated as an 30
unruly child or a delinquent child and the person is the parent, 31
guardian, or custodian of the child, knowingly fail to take 32
reasonable steps to prevent further unruly or delinquent conduct 33
by the child; 34

(6) If the person is the parent, guardian, or custodian of 35
the child, recklessly fail to ensure the child does not become 36
an habitual truant or recklessly fail to ensure the child's 37
compliance with any previously imposed order of the juvenile 38
court or domestic relations court relative to the child. 39

(C) (1) Whoever violates division (B) (1), (2), (3), or 40
(4) of this section is guilty of contributing to the unruliness 41
or delinquency of a child, a misdemeanor of the first degree. 42
Each day of violation of this section is a separate offense. 43

(2) Except as provided in division (C) (3) of this section, 44
whoever violates division (B) (5) or (6) of this section is 45
guilty of neglect of parental duties, a misdemeanor of the first 46

degree. In addition to any other penalty imposed for the 47
offense, the court shall order the offender to complete a 48
parenting class. 49

(3) If the person has previously been convicted of or 50
pleaded guilty to one or more violations of division (B) (5) or 51
(6) of this section, neglect of parental duties is a felony of 52
the fifth degree. In addition to any other penalty imposed for 53
the offense, the court shall order the offender to complete a 54
parenting class. 55

Section 2. That existing section 2919.24 of the Revised 56
Code is hereby repealed. 57