

As Reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

S. B. No. 277

Senator Gavarone

Cosponsor: Senator Manning

To enact section 2151.032 of the Revised Code to 1
clarify that a child who is granted permission 2
to engage in independent activities is not 3
considered to be an abused or neglected child. 4

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

Section 1. That section 2151.032 of the Revised Code be 5
enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 2151.032. (A) No child whose parent, guardian, or 7
custodian allows the child to engage in independent activities 8
without adult supervision shall, solely for that reason, be 9
considered to be an abused or neglected child, provided that 10
both of the following apply: 11

(1) The independent activities are appropriate based on 12
the child's age, maturity, and physical and mental abilities. 13

(2) The lack of supervision does not constitute conduct 14
that is so grossly negligent as to endanger the health or safety 15
of the child. 16

(B) As used in this section, "independent activities" 17
include any of the following: 18

<u>(1) Traveling to and from school or nearby commercial or</u>	19
<u>recreational facilities, including by walking, running, or</u>	20
<u>bicycling;</u>	21
<u>(2) Engaging in outdoor play;</u>	22
<u>(3) Remaining at home unattended for a reasonable amount</u>	23
<u>of time;</u>	24
<u>(4) Engaging in activities similar to those listed in</u>	25
<u>divisions (B) (1) to (3) of this section either alone or with</u>	26
<u>other children.</u>	27