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S.B. 277
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Passed by the Senate

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Gavarone

Chenwei Zhang, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Clarifies that a child who is granted permission to engage in independent activities is not considered to be an abused or neglected child.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Independent activities not considered abuse or neglect

The bill specifies that a child whose parent, guardian, or custodian allows the child to engage in independent activities without adult supervision cannot, solely for that reason, be considered to be an abused or neglected child, as long as: (1) the independent activities are appropriate based on the child's age, maturity, and physical and mental abilities and (2) the lack of supervision does not constitute conduct that is so grossly negligent as to endanger the child's health or safety.[1]

The bill defines "independent activities" to include any of the following:

- Traveling to and from school or nearby commercial or recreational facilities, including by walking, running, or bicycling;
- Engaging in outdoor play;
- Remaining at home unattended for a reasonable amount of time;
- Engaging in activities similar to the above activities, either alone or with other children.[2]

[1] R.C. 2151.032(A).

[2] R.C. 2151.032(B).

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-30-25
Reported, S. Judiciary	05-13-26
Passed Senate (31-0)	05-13-26

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