

SB 262 Compared to Animals in Vehicles Laws in SEC States



State	Animals Covered; Penalty	Prohibited Actions	Rescue/Immunity Provisions
Alabama SB262 (Enacted)	Dog, cat, or other vertebrate animal that is kept, or intended to be kept as a household pet. Excludes livestock and farm animals. Penalty: Class A misdemeanor	Unattended in a motor vehicle that creates an unreasonable risk of injury or harm to the animal. Vehicle temperature of 99 degrees Fahrenheit or less is presumed safe.	A person who uses reasonable force to enter a locked and unattended motor vehicle to remove a confined domestic animal is immune from criminal liability for damage to the vehicle if the person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determines the vehicle is locked or there is no reasonable method for the animal to exit the vehicle without assistance • has a good faith and reasonable belief that entry into the vehicle is necessary because the animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm • contacts a public safety official before entering the vehicle and remains in contact with the official until the animal is safe • uses no more force than necessary to enter the vehicle and remove the animal • remains with the animal in a safe location in reasonable proximity to the motor vehicle until law enforcement or first responders arrive • maintains control of the animal at all times to prevent harm to the animal or others

State	Animals Covered; Penalty	Prohibited Actions	Rescue/Immunity Provisions
Florida § 768.139	Dog, cat, or other animal that is domesticated and may be kept as a household pet. Does not include livestock or farm animals.		<p>A person who enters a motor vehicle for the purpose of removing a domestic animal is immune from civil liability for damage if the person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determines the motor vehicle is locked or there is otherwise no reasonable method to remove animal has a good faith and reasonable belief, based on circumstances, that entry is necessary because the domestic animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm notifies law enforcement or 911 before entering motor vehicle (or immediately thereafter) uses no more force than necessary to enter the motor vehicle and remove domestic animal remains with domestic animal in reasonable proximity to motor vehicle until law enforcement or other first responder arrives
Tennessee § 29-34-209	Any animal. Penalty: Cruelty provisions may apply	N/A	<p>A person shall be immune from civil liability for any damage resulting from the forcible entry of a motor vehicle for the purpose of removing an animal from the vehicle if a person does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determines the vehicle is locked or there is no other reasonable method for the animal to exit the vehicle has a good faith belief that forcible entry into the vehicle is necessary because the animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm if not immediately removed has contacted local law enforcement. Fire department, or a 911 operator prior to forcibly entering the vehicle places notice on the vehicle’s windshield with the person’s contact information, reason the entry was made, location of the animal, and the fact that the authorities have been notified remains with the animal in a safe location reasonably close to the vehicle until emergency responders arrive; and used no more force than necessary to enter the vehicle and remove the animal

No similar laws exist in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, or Texas.

Sources: <https://www.animallaw.info/topic/table-state-laws-protect-animals-left-parked-vehicles>, ATI staff.

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