LEGISLATION ENACTED TO PROTECT CHILDREN’S INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES

Below is a list of the state statutes that have passed starting in 2018 that authorize independence activities and provide protection against neglect or criminal charges (in order of their passage dates as reflected by the date of the Governor’s signing). The underlying legislation is also cited as well as where the legislation is codified in their codes. Lead sponsors are also listed with their party affiliation).


**Texas**: HB 567 (2021 Session) (Rep. Frank, R.; multiple cosponsors), [https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/history.aspx?LegSess=87R&Bill=HB567] Filed without Governor’s signature. Amending Section 161.001(c), Texas Family Code. (Note: this was an omnibus bill so the provisions on independence are less detailed than other states’ bills).


Connecticut: Raised Judiciary Bill 1133, Public Act 23-176 (no single sponsor; committee bill),
https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGABillStatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB1133 Governor signed on June 27, 2023). Legislation amends Subsection (a) of section 53-21a of Connecticut Code (Crimes/Offenses against the Person). (Note: Connecticut is the sole state to date to have made changes to its criminal code but not its juvenile/dependency/neglect/children’s code).