

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 293

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking a child hostage  
in order to evade arrest.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2003

Mrs. KELLY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking  
a child hostage in order to evade arrest.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. CHILD HOSTAGE-TAKING TO EVADE ARREST**

4                       **OR OBSTRUCT JUSTICE.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 18, United  
6       States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7       lowing new section:

1 **“§ 1205. Child hostage-taking to evade arrest or ob-**  
2 **struct justice**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever uses force or threatens  
4 to use force against any officer or agency of the Federal  
5 Government, and seizes or detains, or continues to detain,  
6 a child in order to—

7 “(1) obstruct, resist, or oppose any officer of  
8 the United States, or other person duly authorized,  
9 in serving, or attempting to serve or execute, any  
10 legal or judicial writ, process, or warrant of any  
11 court of the United States; or

12 “(2) compel any department or agency of the  
13 Federal Government to do or to abstain from doing  
14 any act;

15 or attempts to do so, shall be punished in accordance with  
16 subsection (b).

17 “(b) SENTENCING.—Any person who violates sub-  
18 section (a)—

19 “(1) shall be imprisoned not less than 10 years  
20 and not more than 25 years;

21 “(2) if injury results to the child as a result of  
22 the violation, shall be imprisoned not less than 20  
23 years and not more than 35 years; and

24 “(3) if death results to the child as a result of  
25 the violation, shall be subject to the penalty of death  
26 or be imprisoned for life.

1       “(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
2 term ‘child’ means an individual who has not attained the  
3 age of 18 years.”.

4       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
5 for chapter 55 of title 18, United States Code, is amended  
6 by adding at the end the following new item:

“1205. Child hostage-taking to evade arrest or obstruct justice.”.

