

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Child restraint requirements for children under age nine

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Requires all vehicular passengers under age nine who weigh less than 80 pounds to be fastened into a child passenger restraint system. Under present law the restraint requirement applies to children under age four.

Imposes additional child restraint requirements as follows:

- Child under one year and weighing less than 20 pounds, restrained in rear-facing child restraint system
- Child under age nine and weighing 80 pounds or more must be restrained in seat belt

Requires all children under age nine to sit in back seat unless (1) the vehicle has no back seat, (2) all the positions in the back seat are already occupied by other children under age nine, or (3) a child restraint system cannot be properly installed in the back seat.

Allows a child under age nine who weighs 40 pounds or more to wear a lap-only seat belt in the back seat if there are no shoulder belts in the back seat, or if all the shoulder belts are already being used by children under age 16 who weigh 40 pounds or more.

Requires the operator of a pickup truck or sport utility vehicle who transports a child under age nine at a speed over 15 mph to transport the child within the vehicle's passenger compartment.

Provides that the waiver of the \$50 fine for violation that is granted if the violator subsequently buys a child restraint system applies only to a fine for the first violation.