HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This legislation modifies exemptions from the requirement that children under certain age and height thresholds must be secured in a child restraint system. It exempts school buses and those type III vehicles that are manufactured to meet the federal occupant crash protection safety standards required of school buses.

Under current law, a child restraint is required to be used to transport children in most motor vehicles equipped with seat belts if the child is both (1) under age eight, and (2) shorter than four feet nine inches in height.

Type III vehicles are certain motor vehicles that are used to transport pupils to or from school, or for school related activities. To qualify as a type III vehicle, it must:

- carry a maximum of ten or fewer people, including the driver; and
- weigh 10,000 pounds or less. Minn. Stat. § 169.011, subd. 71.

Type III vehicles primarily consist of passenger automobiles, including station wagons and SUVs, but the category can include a vehicle that is commonly viewed as a small school bus. (There are prohibitions, however, on type III vehicle color and use of certain lights and stop arms.)