

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Version: As introduced

Authors: Seagren and others

Subject: Child passenger safety device requirements based on age and size

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Overview

This bill amends the current law requiring child safety devices and seat belts for child passengers by making the current child restraint system requirement, which now applies up to age 4, apply until the child reaches 9 years. If the child is under 4'9" in height the child is still subject to the child restraint device even after reaching age 9. The requirement to use a seat belt in any seat in a vehicle, which now applies between the ages of 3 and 11 years, will now apply between ages 9 and 18 years.

The bill also eliminates two exemptions from the mandatory seat belt use law.

Section

- 1** **Child passenger restraint requirement.** Amends the requirement that children under age 4 must be transported in a child passenger restraint system by making it apply to any child who is under age 9 years or who is under 4'9" in height.
- 2** **Seat belt requirement.** Amends the requirement that a child older than 3 years but younger than 11 years must wear a seat belt in any seat in a passenger vehicle, by making it apply to children between ages 9 and 18.
- 3** **Exemptions.** Deletes the following exemptions from the mandatory seat belt use law:
 - vehicles driving in reverse

Section

- person in a seat where no seat belt is available because all the belts are being used by someone else.