

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5736

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to revise regulations relating to child restraint systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 26, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself and Ms. PORTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to revise regulations relating to child restraint systems, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Booster Seat Safety
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.**

7 (a) CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM LABELING.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—

9 (A) REVISIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than

10 90 days after the date of the enactment of this

1 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall re-
2 vise section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
3 Regulations—

4 (i) in S5.5.2(f), by striking “13.6 kg”
5 and inserting “18.2 kg”; and

6 (ii) by adding at the end of S5.5.2 the
7 following:

8 “(o) The packaging for each booster seat shall be per-
9 manently labeled with the information specified in
10 S5.5.2(g).

11 “(p) On each booster seat, and on the packaging of
12 such booster seat, there shall be placed—

13 “(1) a permanent label stating: ‘For use by
14 children [] years old or older and who are over
15 [] pounds.’, with respect to which—

16 “(A) the first bracket is replaced with the
17 minimum age recommended for a user, which
18 may not be an age younger than 4 years old;
19 and

20 “(B) the second bracket is replaced with
21 the minimum weight recommended for a user,
22 which may not be under 40 pounds; and

23 “(2) a permanent label stating: ‘Strongly rec-
24 ommended children use this seat only when they
25 reach either the height or weight limit for a child re-

1 straint system with internal harness as indicated by
2 the manufacturer.’.

3 “(q) On each child restraint system with internal har-
4 ness, and on the packaging of such child restraint system
5 with internal harness, there shall be placed a permanent
6 label stating: ‘To prevent possible injury or death, it is
7 important to delay the transition from a child restraint
8 system with internal harness to a booster seat as long as
9 possible, until the child reaches the weight or height limit
10 of the child restraint system with internal harness as indi-
11 cated by the manufacturer.’.

12 “(r) On each combination car seat, there shall be
13 placed a permanent label stating: ‘Please use this seat
14 with the internal harness as long as possible, until your
15 child outgrows the maximum weight of [__] or reaches the
16 maximum height of [__]. Once they have exceeded such
17 weight or height, this seat can be used as a belt posi-
18 tioning booster seat with the vehicle seat belt.’, with re-
19 spect to which—

20 “(1) the first bracket is replaced with the max-
21 imum weight recommended for an internal harness
22 user, which may not be under 40 pounds; and

23 “(2) the second bracket is replaced with the
24 maximum height recommended for an internal har-
25 ness user.”.

1 (B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The revisions to
2 section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
3 Regulations, under subparagraph (A) shall take
4 effect not later than 180 days after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act.

6 (2) MINIMUM HEIGHT LABELING REQUIREMENT
7 FOR BOOSTER SEATS.—

8 (A) REVISIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than
9 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
10 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall re-
11 vise section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
12 Regulations, so as to—

13 (i) require the permanent label re-
14 quired by S5.5.2(p)(1) for a booster seat
15 and the packaging of such booster seat to
16 state the minimum height recommended
17 for a user of such booster seat; and

18 (ii) specify—

19 (I) the minimum height required
20 to be stated on such label; or

21 (II) a method by which a manu-
22 facturer of a booster seat shall deter-
23 mine the minimum height required to
24 be stated on such label for such boost-
25 er seat.

1 (B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The revisions to
2 section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
3 Regulations, under subparagraph (A) shall take
4 effect on the date that is 1 year after the Sec-
5 retary of Transportation completes such revi-
6 sions.

7 (b) SIDE-IMPACT CRASH TESTING.—

8 (1) GENERAL STANDARDS.—Not later than 1
9 year after the date of the enactment of this section,
10 the Administrator shall issue regulations to establish
11 standards with respect to side-impact crash testing
12 for child restraint systems, which—

13 (A) shall include standards for booster
14 seats; and

15 (B) may include the use of the most appro-
16 priate test dummy available at the time of such
17 side-impact crash testing.

18 (2) NEAR-SIDE AND FAR-SIDE IMPACT TEST-
19 ING.—In issuing regulations under paragraph (1),
20 the Administrator shall include procedures for test-
21 ing—

22 (A) near-side impacts, in which the child
23 restraint system being tested is positioned on
24 the side of the point of impact; and

1 (B) far-side impacts, in which the child re-
2 straint system being tested is positioned on the
3 opposite side of the point of impact.

4 (3) BOOSTER SEAT TEST DEVICES.—

5 (A) DESIGN.—Not later than 18 months
6 after the date of the enactment of this section,
7 the Administrator shall issue regulations that
8 provide guidelines for a test dummy that ap-
9 proximates a 6-year-old child for the purposes
10 of side-impact crash testing.

11 (B) USE.—Not later than 18 months after
12 the date on which the Administrator issues reg-
13 ulations under subparagraph (A), the Adminis-
14 trator shall require that side-impact crash test-
15 ing for booster seats (for both near-side and
16 far-side impacts) includes the use of a test
17 dummy that meets the guidelines provided
18 under subparagraph (A).

19 (c) TETHER SYSTEMS STUDY.—Not later than 1 year
20 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Admin-
21 istrator shall provide to Congress a study of the
22 functionality of tether systems and the variability that ex-
23 ists in tether use recommendations by car seat and vehicle
24 manufacturers, with recommendations on how such tether
25 systems may be used or modified to increase the usage

1 of child restraint systems with internal harness to maxi-
2 mize child safety.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
5 trator” means the Administrator of the National
6 Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

7 (2) BOOSTER SEAT.—The term “booster seat”
8 has the meaning given such term in section 571.213
9 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect
10 on the date of the enactment of this section).

11 (3) CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM.—The term
12 “child restraint system” has the meaning given such
13 term in section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
14 Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enact-
15 ment of this section).

16 (4) CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM WITH INTERNAL
17 HARNESS.—The term “child restraint system with
18 internal harness” means a child restraint system de-
19 signed to be used rear-facing or forward-facing em-
20 ploying a 5-point harness to position the child in the
21 seat.

22 (5) COMBINATION CAR SEAT.—The term “com-
23 bination car seat”—

24 (A) means any child restraint system de-
25 signed to be used in a forward-facing position

1 with a 5-point internal harness, where the har-
2 ness may be removed and the seat utilized as
3 a belt-positioning booster seat; and

4 (B) includes a child restraint system that
5 may be—

6 (i) converted between rear-facing with
7 an internal harness and forward-facing
8 with an internal harness; and

9 (ii) commonly referred to as “3-in-1”
10 or “all-in-1” seats.

11 (6) TEST DUMMY.—The term “test dummy”
12 means an anthropomorphic test dummy as such
13 term is used in section 571.213 of title 49, Code of
14 Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the
15 enactment of this section).

16 (7) TETHER SYSTEM.—The term “tether sys-
17 tem” means a system utilizing a tether anchorage,
18 tether strap, and tether hook (as such terms are de-
19 fined in section 571.225 of tile 49, Code of Federal
20 Regulations).

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