

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2956

To establish safety standards for certain limousines, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2021

Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. DELGADO, and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish safety standards for certain limousines, 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 “Safety, Accountability,
5 and Federal Enforcement of Limos Act of 2021” or the
6 “SAFE Limos Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. LIMOUSINE COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL SAFETY**
8 **STANDARDS.**

9 (a) LIMOUSINE STANDARDS.—

10 (1) SAFETY BELT AND SEATING SYSTEM
11 STANDARDS FOR LIMOUSINES.—Not later than 2

1 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
2 Secretary shall prescribe a final rule—

3 (A) that amends Federal Motor Vehicle
4 Safety Standard Numbers 208, 209, and 210 to
5 require to be installed in limousines at each
6 designated seating position, including on side-
7 facing seats—

8 (i) an occupant restraint system con-
9 sisting of integrated lap shoulder belts; or

10 (ii) an occupant restraint system con-
11 sisting of a lap belt if the occupant re-
12 straint system described in clause (i) does
13 not meet the need for motor vehicle safety;
14 and

15 (B) that amends Federal Motor Vehicle
16 Safety Standard Number 207 to require lim-
17 ousines to meet standards for seats (including
18 side-facing seats), seat attachment assemblies,
19 and seat installation to minimize the possibility
20 of their failure by forces acting on them as a
21 result of vehicle impact.

22 (2) REPORT ON RETROFIT ASSESSMENT FOR
23 LIMOUSINES.—Not later than 2 years after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
25 submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

1 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
2 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
3 Senate a report that assesses the feasibility, bene-
4 fits, and costs with respect to the application of any
5 requirement established under paragraph (1) to a
6 limousine introduced into interstate commerce before
7 the date on which the requirement takes effect.

8 (b) SAFETY REGULATION OF LIMOUSINES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 30102(a)(6) of title
10 49, United States Code, is amended—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”
12 at the end;

13 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
14 period and inserting “; or”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(C) modifying a passenger motor vehicle
17 (as such term is defined in section 32101) that
18 has already been purchased by the first pur-
19 chaser (as such term is defined in subsection
20 (b)) by increasing the wheelbase of the vehicle
21 so that the vehicle has increased seating capac-
22 ity.”.

23 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
24 by paragraph (1) shall apply beginning on the date

1 that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
2 Act.

3 (c) LIMOUSINE COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL SAFE-
4 TY STANDARDS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 301 of title 49,
6 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
7 section 30128 the following:

8 **“§ 30129. Limousine compliance with Federal safety**
9 **standards**

10 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning on the date that is
11 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, a
12 limousine remodeler may not offer for sale, lease, or rent,
13 introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate com-
14 merce, or import into the United States a new limousine
15 unless the limousine remodeler has submitted to the Sec-
16 retary a vehicle remodeler plan (or an updated vehicle re-
17 modeler plan required by subsection (b), as applicable)
18 that describes how the remodeler is mitigating risks to
19 motor vehicle safety posed by the limousines of the remod-
20 eler. A vehicle remodeler plan shall include the following:

21 “(1) Verification and validation of compliance
22 with applicable motor vehicle safety standards.

23 “(2) Design, quality control, manufacturing,
24 and training practices adopted by the limousine re-
25 modeler.

1 “(3) Customer support guidelines, including in-
2 structions for limousine occupants to wear seatbelts
3 and limousine operators to notify occupants of the
4 date and results of the most recent inspection of the
5 limousine.

6 “(b) UPDATES.—Each limousine remodeler shall sub-
7 mit an updated vehicle remodeler plan to the Secretary
8 each year.

9 “(c) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The Secretary shall
10 make any vehicle remodeler plan submitted under sub-
11 section (a) or (b) publicly available not later than 60 days
12 after the date on which the plan is received, except the
13 Secretary may not make publicly available any information
14 relating to a trade secret or other confidential business
15 information (as such terms are defined in section 512.3
16 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor
17 regulation)).

18 “(d) REVIEW.—The Secretary may inspect any vehi-
19 cle remodeler plan submitted by a limousine remodeler
20 under subsection (a) or (b) to enable the Secretary to de-
21 termine whether the limousine remodeler has complied, or
22 is complying, with this chapter or a regulation prescribed
23 or order issued pursuant to this chapter.

24 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
25 tion may be construed to affect discovery, a subpoena or

1 other court order, or any other judicial process otherwise
2 allowed under applicable Federal or State law.

3 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following
4 definitions apply:

5 “(1) CERTIFIED PASSENGER MOTOR VEHI-
6 CLE.—The term ‘certified passenger motor vehicle’
7 means a passenger motor vehicle that has been cer-
8 tified in accordance with section 30115 to meet all
9 applicable motor vehicle safety standards.

10 “(2) INCOMPLETE VEHICLE.—The term ‘incom-
11 plete vehicle’ has the meaning given such term in
12 section 567.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
13 tions (or any successor regulation).

14 “(3) LIMOUSINE.—The term ‘limousine’ means
15 a motor vehicle—

16 “(A) that has a seating capacity of 9 or
17 more persons (including the driver);

18 “(B) with a gross vehicle weight rating
19 greater than 10,000 pounds but not greater
20 than 26,000 pounds; and

21 “(C) that the Secretary has determined by
22 regulation has physical characteristics resem-
23 bling—

24 “(i) a passenger car;

1 “(ii) a multipurpose passenger vehicle;

2 or

3 “(iii) a truck with a gross vehicle
4 weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less.

5 “(4) LIMOUSINE OPERATOR.—The term ‘lim-
6 ousine operator’ means a person who owns or leases,
7 and uses, a limousine to transport passengers for
8 compensation.

9 “(5) LIMOUSINE REMODELER.—The term ‘lim-
10 ousine remodeler’ means a person who alters or
11 modifies by addition, substitution, or removal of
12 components (other than readily attachable compo-
13 nents) an incomplete vehicle, a vehicle manufactured
14 in two or more stages, or a certified passenger motor
15 vehicle before or after the first purchase of the vehi-
16 cle to manufacture a limousine.

17 “(6) MULTIPURPOSE PASSENGER VEHICLE.—
18 The term ‘multipurpose passenger vehicle’ has the
19 meaning given such term in section 571.3 of title 49,
20 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
21 lation).

22 “(7) PASSENGER CAR.—The term ‘passenger
23 car’ has the meaning given such term in section
24 571.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or
25 any successor regulation).

1 “(8) PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term
2 ‘passenger motor vehicle’ has the meaning given
3 such term in section 32101.

4 “(9) TRUCK.—The term ‘truck’ has the mean-
5 ing given such term in section 571.3 of title 49,
6 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
7 lation).”.

8 (2) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 30165(a)(1) of
9 title 49, United States Code, is amended by insert-
10 ing “30129,” after “30127,”.

11 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
12 tions for subchapter II of chapter 301 of title 49,
13 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
14 the item relating to section 30128 the following:

“30129. Limousine compliance with Federal safety standards.”.

15 (d) LIMOUSINE CRASHWORTHINESS.—

16 (1) RESEARCH.—Not later than 4 years after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 shall complete research into the development of
19 motor vehicle safety standards for side impact pro-
20 tection, roof crush resistance, and air bag systems
21 for the protection of occupants for limousines with
22 alternative seating positions, including perimeter
23 seating arrangements.

24 (2) RULEMAKING OR REPORT.—

25 (A) CRASHWORTHINESS STANDARDS.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2
2 years after the completion of the research
3 required under paragraph (1), except as
4 provided in clause (ii), the Secretary shall
5 prescribe a final motor vehicle safety
6 standard, for the protection of occupants
7 in limousines with alternative seating posi-
8 tions, for each of the following:

9 (I) Side impact protection.

10 (II) Roof crush resistance.

11 (III) Air bag systems.

12 (ii) REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDER-
13 ATIONS.—The Secretary may only pre-
14 scribe a motor vehicle safety standard de-
15 scribed in clause (i) if the Secretary deter-
16 mines that such standard meets the re-
17 quirements and considerations set forth in
18 subsections (a) and (b) of section 30111 of
19 title 49, United States Code.

20 (B) REPORT.—If the Secretary determines
21 that a standard described in subparagraph
22 (A)(i) does not meet the requirements and con-
23 siderations set forth in subsections (a) and (b)
24 of section 30111 of title 49, United States
25 Code, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal

1 Register and submit to the Committee on En-
2 ergy and Commerce of the House of Represent-
3 atives and the Committee on Commerce,
4 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a re-
5 port describing the reasons for not prescribing
6 such standard.

7 (e) LIMOUSINE EVACUATION.—

8 (1) RESEARCH.—Not later than 2 years after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 shall complete research into safety features and
11 standards that aid evacuation in the event that one
12 exit in the passenger compartment of a limousine is
13 blocked.

14 (2) STANDARDS.—Not later than 3 years after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
16 shall prescribe a final motor vehicle safety standard
17 based on the results of the research under para-
18 graph (1).

19 (f) LIMOUSINE INSPECTION DISCLOSURE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—A limousine operator may
21 not introduce a limousine into interstate commerce
22 unless the limousine operator has prominently dis-
23 closed in a clear and conspicuous notice, including
24 on the website of the operator if the operator has a
25 website, the following:

1 (A) The date of the most recent inspection
2 of the limousine required under State or Fed-
3 eral law.

4 (B) The results of the inspection.

5 (C) Any corrective action taken by the lim-
6 ousine operator to ensure the limousine passed
7 inspection.

8 (2) FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ENFORCE-
9 MENT.—The Federal Trade Commission shall en-
10 force this subsection in the same manner, by the
11 same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers,
12 and duties as though all applicable terms and provi-
13 sions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15
14 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made
15 a part of this subsection. Any person who violates
16 this subsection shall be subject to the penalties and
17 entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in
18 the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et
19 seq.).

20 (3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-
21 section shall be construed to limit the authority of
22 the Federal Trade Commission under any other pro-
23 vision of law.

1 (4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
2 take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment
3 of this Act.

4 (g) EVENT DATA RECORDERS FOR LIMOUSINES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 shall prescribe a final motor vehicle safety standard
8 requiring the use of event data recorders for lim-
9 ousines.

10 (2) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—Any standard pre-
11 scribed under paragraph (1) pertaining to event data
12 recorder information shall be consistent with the col-
13 lection and sharing requirements under the FAST
14 Act (Public Law 114–94) and any other applicable
15 law.

16 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
17 nitions apply:

18 (1) EVENT DATA RECORDER.—The term “event
19 data recorder” has the meaning given such term in
20 section 563.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
21 tions (or any successor regulation).

22 (2) LIMOUSINE.—The term “limousine” has the
23 meaning given such term in section 30129 of title
24 49, United States Code, as added by this section.

1 (3) LIMOUSINE OPERATOR.—The term “lim-
2 ousine operator” has the meaning given such term
3 in section 30129 of title 49, United States Code, as
4 added by this section.

5 (4) LIMOUSINE REMODELER.—The term “lim-
6 ousine remodeler” has the meaning given such term
7 in section 30129 of title 49, United States Code, as
8 added by this section.

9 (5) MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term “motor vehi-
10 cle” has the meaning given such term in section
11 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

12 (6) MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD.—The
13 term “motor vehicle safety standard” has the mean-
14 ing given such term in section 30102(a) of title 49,
15 United States Code.

16 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Transportation.

18 (8) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
19 ing given such term in section 30102(a) of title 49,
20 United States Code.

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