

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 607

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself, Ms. PORTER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## 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.—

1 (A) REVISIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than  
2 90 days after the date of the enactment of this  
3 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall re-  
4 vise section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal  
5 Regulations—

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

8 (ii) by adding at the end of S5.5.2 the  
9 following:

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

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

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

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

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

1           “(2) a permanent label stating: ‘Strongly rec-  
2           ommended children use this seat only when they  
3           reach either the height or weight limit for a child re-  
4           straint system with internal harness as indicated by  
5           the manufacturer.’.

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

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

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

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

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

9           (2) MINIMUM HEIGHT LABELING REQUIREMENT  
10          FOR BOOSTER SEATS.—

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

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

21               (ii) specify—

22                       (I) the minimum height required  
23                       to be stated on such label; or

24                       (II) a method by which a manu-  
25                       facturer of a booster seat shall deter-

1                   mine the minimum height required to  
2                   be stated on such label for such boost-  
3                   er seat.

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

10                  (b) SIDE-IMPACT CRASH TESTING.—

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

16                   (A) shall include standards for booster  
17                   seats; and

18                   (B) may include the use of the most appro-  
19                   priate test dummy available at the time of such  
20                   side-impact crash testing.

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

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

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

7 (3) BOOSTER SEAT TEST DEVICES.—

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

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

22 (c) TETHER SYSTEMS STUDY.—Not later than 1 year  
23 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Admin-  
24 istrator shall provide to Congress a study of the  
25 functionality of tether systems and the variability that ex-

1 ists in tether use recommendations by car seat and vehicle  
2 manufacturers, with recommendations on how such tether  
3 systems may be used or modified to increase the usage  
4 of child restraint systems with internal harness to maxi-  
5 mize child safety.

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
8 trator” means the Administrator of the National  
9 Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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

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

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

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

3                   (A) means any child restraint system de-  
4                   signed to be used in a forward-facing position  
5                   with a 5-point internal harness, where the har-  
6                   ness may be removed and the seat utilized as  
7                   a belt-positioning booster seat; and

8                   (B) includes a child restraint system that  
9                   may be—

10                           (i) converted between rear-facing with  
11                           an internal harness and forward-facing  
12                           with an internal harness; and

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

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

20           (7) TETHER SYSTEM.—The term “tether sys-  
21           tem” means a system utilizing a tether anchorage,  
22           tether strap, and tether hook (as such terms are de-  
23           fined in section 571.225 of title 49, Code of Federal  
24           Regulations).

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