

HB 418 -- Child Passenger Restraints

Sponsor: Dusenberg

This bill changes the laws regarding child passenger restraints and safety belts. The bill:

- (1) Requires children less than four years of age to be secured in a child passenger restraint system;
- (2) Requires children four through five years of age to be secured in a child passenger restraint system or booster seat;
- (3) Requires children at least six years of age to be secured by a vehicle safety belt, child passenger restraint system, or booster seat;
- (4) Allows children weighing more than 40 pounds, who would otherwise be required to be secured in a booster seat, to be transported in the back seat of a vehicle while wearing only a lap belt if the back seat of the motor vehicle is not equipped with a combination lap and shoulder belt for booster seat installation;
- (5) Requires car rental agencies doing business in Missouri to inform customers of the requirements of the bill and to provide for the rental of an appropriate child passenger restraint system;
- (6) Exempts public carriers for hire or school buses; and
- (7) Requires the Department of Public Safety to develop a public information program to ensure compliance with child passenger restraint laws.

A violation of child passenger restraints and safety belts is an infraction and punishable by a fine of not more than \$25 plus court costs with no points assessed against any person. The charges against any person receiving a citation for a child restraint violation will be dismissed or withdrawn if the person provides prior to or at a hearing evidence of the acquisition of a child passenger restraint system or child booster seat which is satisfactory to the court or the prosecutor.

The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2006.