

HB 1165 -- Child Passenger Restraints

Sponsor: Dusenberg

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

- (1) Requires children younger 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 safety restraint system;
- (6) Exempts public carriers for hire or school buses carrying children four years of age and older; and
- (7) Requires the Highways and Transportation Commission to develop a public information program to ensure compliance with child passenger restraint laws.

A violation of the child passenger restraint or safety belt provisions 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 The charges against any person receiving a citation for a child restraint violation will be dismissed or withdrawn if the person provides, prior to or at a hearing, evidence of the acquisition of a child passenger restraint system or child booster seat which is satisfactory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.