



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6660**

January Session, 2005

\*            HB06660TRA            022405            \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 14-100a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2005*):

4       (a) No new passenger motor vehicle may be sold or registered in  
5 this state unless equipped with at least two sets of seat safety belts for  
6 the front and rear seats of the motor vehicle, which belts comply with  
7 the requirements of subsection (b) of this section. The anchorage unit  
8 at the attachment point shall be of such construction, design and  
9 strength as to support a loop load strength of not less than four  
10 thousand pounds for each belt.

11       (b) No seat safety belt may be sold for use in connection with the  
12 operation of a motor vehicle on any highway of this state unless it is so  
13 constructed and installed as to have a loop strength through the  
14 complete attachment of not less than four thousand pounds, and the  
15 buckle or closing device shall be of such construction and design that  
16 after it has received the aforesaid loop belt load it can be released with  
17 one hand with a pull of less than forty-five pounds.

18       (c) (1) The operator of and any front seat passenger in a motor  
19 vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating not exceeding ten thousand

20 pounds or fire fighting apparatus originally equipped with seat safety  
21 belts complying with the provisions of the Code of Federal  
22 Regulations, Title 49, Section 571.209, as amended from time to time,  
23 shall wear such seat safety belt while the vehicle is being operated on  
24 the highways of this state, except that a child [under the age of four  
25 years] six years of age and under shall be restrained as provided in  
26 subsection (d) of this section. Each operator of such vehicle shall secure  
27 or cause to be secured in a seat safety belt any passenger [four] seven  
28 years of age or older and under sixteen years of age.

29 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not  
30 apply to (A) any person whose physical disability or impairment  
31 would prevent restraint in such safety belt, provided such person  
32 obtains a written statement from a licensed physician containing  
33 reasons for such person's inability to wear such safety belt and  
34 including information concerning the nature and extent of such  
35 condition. Such person shall carry the statement on his or her person  
36 or in the motor vehicle at all times when it is being operated, or (B) an  
37 authorized emergency vehicle, other than fire fighting apparatus,  
38 responding to an emergency call or a motor vehicle operated by a rural  
39 letter carrier of the United States postal service while performing his or  
40 her official duties or by a person engaged in the delivery of  
41 newspapers.

42 (3) Failure to wear a seat safety belt shall not be considered as  
43 contributory negligence nor shall such failure be admissible evidence  
44 in any civil action.

45 (4) On and after February 1, 1986, any person who violates the  
46 provisions of this subsection shall have committed an infraction and  
47 shall be fined fifteen dollars. Points may not be assessed against the  
48 operator's license of any person convicted of such violation.

49 (d) (1) Any person who transports a child [under the age of four  
50 years,] six years of age and under or weighing less than [forty] sixty  
51 pounds, in a motor vehicle on the highways of this state shall provide

52 and require the child to use a child restraint system approved pursuant  
53 to regulations adopted by the Department of Motor Vehicles in  
54 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. Any person who  
55 transports a child [under the age of four years,] seven years of age or  
56 older and weighing [forty] sixty or more pounds, in a motor vehicle on  
57 the highways of this state shall either provide and require the child to  
58 use an approved child restraint system or require the child to use a  
59 seat safety belt. As used in this subsection, "motor vehicle" does not  
60 mean a bus having a tonnage rating of one ton or more. Failure to use a  
61 child restraint system shall not be considered as contributory  
62 negligence nor shall such failure be admissible evidence in any civil  
63 action.

64 (2) Any person who transports a child under one year of age or  
65 weighing less than twenty pounds in a motor vehicle on the highways  
66 of this state shall provide and require the child to ride rear-facing in a  
67 child restraint system approved pursuant to regulations that the  
68 Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt in accordance with the  
69 provisions of chapter 54.

70 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
71 subsection, any person who transports a child four years of age or  
72 older in a student transportation vehicle, as defined in section 14-212,  
73 on the highways of this state shall provide and require the child to use  
74 a seat safety belt. Any person who transports a child under four years  
75 of age or weighing less than forty pounds in a student transportation  
76 vehicle on the highways of this state shall provide and require the  
77 child to use a child restraint system approved pursuant to regulations  
78 adopted by the Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with the  
79 provisions of chapter 54.

80 (4) No person shall restrain a child in a booster seat unless the motor  
81 vehicle is equipped with a safety seat belt that includes a shoulder belt  
82 and otherwise meets the requirement of subsection (b) of this section.

83 (5) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (1), (2),

84 (3) or (4) of this subsection shall, for a first violation, have committed  
85 an infraction; for a second violation, be fined not more than one  
86 hundred ninety-nine dollars; and, for a third or subsequent violation,  
87 be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The commissioner shall require  
88 any person who has committed a first or second violation of the  
89 provisions of this subsection to attend a child car seat safety course  
90 offered or approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The  
91 commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing,  
92 suspend for a period of not more than two months the motor vehicle  
93 operator's license of any person who fails to attend or successfully  
94 complete the course.

95 (e) The commissioner shall administer the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	14-100a(c)

**TRA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*