

This bill strengthens motor vehicles child restraint system requirements for children. It increases the threshold age or weight at which a child must be placed in a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)-approved rear-facing child restraint from under age one or less than 20 pounds to under age two or less than 30 pounds. It increases, from six to seven, the maximum age at which children must be secured in certain types of child restraints, including booster seats, and requires that all child restraints be equipped with a five-point harness. It also prohibits people from placing a child in a rear-facing child restraint in the front seat of any vehicle with a functional air bag on the passenger side.

It subjects violators to the penalties under existing law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Current law requires children under age one or weighing less than 20 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing child restraint. It requires children age six and younger or weighing less than 60 pounds to be secured in a DMV-approved child restraint. It requires children ages seven through 15 and weighing at least 60 pounds to either use such a restraint or wear a seat belt.

The bill increases the age and weight thresholds for the child restraint systems and requires that such restraints be equipped with a five-point harness. As under existing law, all child restraint systems must be DMV-approved. Table 1 below, shows child restraint requirements under the bill.

Table 1: Child Restraint Requirements under the Bill

Age and Weight	Restraint Requirements
Under age 2 or less than 30 pounds, regardless of age	Rear-facing child restraint
Ages 2 through 4 or weighing 30 through 39 pounds, regardless of age	Rear- or forward-facing child restraint
Ages 5 through 7 or weighing 40 through 59 pounds, regardless of age	Rear- or forward-facing child restraint or a booster seat secured by a seat belt. (As under current law, the booster seat must be secured by a lap-and-shoulder seat belt.)
Ages 8 through 15 and weighing 60 pounds or more	Child restraint or seat belt