

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4145

To improve safety standards for child restraints in motor vehicles.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. WILSON, Mr. HYDE, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. EWING, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. SAWYER, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To improve safety standards for child restraints in motor vehicles.

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 “Child Passenger Pro-  
5 tection Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) each day, an average of 7 children are killed  
9 and 866 injured in motor vehicle crashes;

1           (2) the Federal Government has not updated  
2 test standards for child restraints—

3           (A) to reflect the modern designs of motor  
4 vehicles in use as of the date of enactment of  
5 this Act;

6           (B) to take into account the effects of a  
7 side-impact crash, a rear-impact crash, or a  
8 rollover crash; and

9           (C) to require the use of anthropomorphic  
10 devices that accurately reflect the heights and  
11 masses of children at ages other than newborn,  
12 9 months, 3 years, and 6 years; and

13           (3) the Federal Government should update the  
14 test standards for child restraints to reduce the  
15 number of children killed or injured in automobile  
16 accidents in the United States.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19           (1) CHILD RESTRAINT.—The term “child re-  
20 straint” has the meaning given the term “child re-  
21 straint system” in section 571.213 of title 49, Code  
22 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of  
23 enactment of this Act).

24           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
25 the Secretary of Transportation.

1 **SEC. 4. TESTING OF CHILD RESTRAINTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update  
4 and improve crash test standards and conditions for child  
5 restraints.

6 (b) ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In carrying  
7 out subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

8 (1) whether to conduct more comprehensive and  
9 dynamic testing of child restraints than is typically  
10 conducted as of the date of enactment of this Act,  
11 including the use of test platforms designed—

12 (A) to simulate an array of accident condi-  
13 tions, such as side-impact crashes, rear-impact  
14 crashes, and rollover crashes; and

15 (B) to reflect the designs of passenger  
16 motor vehicles in use as of the date of enact-  
17 ment of this Act;

18 (2) whether to use an increased number of  
19 anthropomorphic devices in a greater variety of  
20 heights and masses; and

21 (3) whether to provide improved protection in  
22 motor vehicle accidents for children up to 59.2  
23 inches tall who weigh more than 50 pounds.

24 (c) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—In carrying out sub-  
25 section (a), the Secretary shall—

1           (1) require that manufacturers design child re-  
2           straints to minimize head injuries during side-impact  
3           and rollover crashes, including requiring that child  
4           restraints have side-impact protection;

5           (2) include a child restraint in each vehicle  
6           crash-tested under the New Car Assessment Pro-  
7           gram of the Department of Transportation; and

8           (3) prescribe readily understandable text for  
9           any labels that are required to be placed on child re-  
10          straints.

11          (d) FUNDING.—For each fiscal year, of the funds  
12          made available to the Secretary for activities relating to  
13          safety, not less than \$750,000 shall be made available to  
14          carry out crash testing of child restraints.

15          **SEC. 5. CHILD RESTRAINT SAFETY RATING PROGRAM.**

16          Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
17          of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and implement a  
18          safety rating program for child restraints to provide prac-  
19          ticable, readily understandable, and timely information to  
20          parents and caretakers for use in making informed deci-  
21          sions in the purchase of child restraints.

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