

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2070

To improve safety standards for child restraints in motor vehicles.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 10, 2000

Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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) certain standards and testing procedures for
2 child restraints in the United States are not as rig-
3 orous as those in some other countries;

4 (3) although the Federal Government estab-
5 lishes safety standards for child restraints, the Fed-
6 eral Government—

7 (A) permits companies that manufacture
8 child restraints to conduct their own tests for
9 compliance with the safety standards and inter-
10 pret the results of those tests, but does not re-
11 quire that the manufacturers make the results
12 of the tests public;

13 (B) has not updated test standards for
14 child restraints—

15 (i) to reflect the modern designs of
16 motor vehicles in use as of the date of en-
17 actment of this Act;

18 (ii) to take into account the effects of
19 a side-impact crash, a rear-impact crash,
20 or a rollover crash; and

21 (iii) to require the use of
22 anthropomorphic devices that accurately
23 reflect the heights and masses of children
24 at ages other than newborn, 9 months, 3
25 years, and 6 years; and

1 (C) has not issued motor vehicle safety
2 standards that adequately protect children up
3 to the age of 12 who weigh more than 50
4 pounds; and

5 (4) the Federal Government should update the
6 test standards for child restraints to reduce the
7 number of children killed or injured in automobile
8 accidents in the United States.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) CHILD RESTRAINT.—The term “child re-
12 straint” has the meaning given the term “child re-
13 straint system” in section 571.213 of title 49, Code
14 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of
15 enactment of this Act).

16 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Transportation.

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

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

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

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

5 (A) to simulate an array of accident condi-
6 tions, such as side-impact crashes, rear-impact
7 crashes, and rollover crashes; and

8 (B) to reflect the designs of passenger
9 motor vehicles in use as of the date of enact-
10 ment of this Act;

11 (2) whether to use an increased number of
12 anthropomorphic devices in a greater variety of
13 heights and masses; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
10 of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and implement a
11 safety rating program for child restraints to provide prac-
12 ticable, readily understandable, and timely information to
13 parents and caretakers for use in making informed deci-
14 sions in the purchase of child restraints.

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