



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 1146

LCO No. 4181



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN TRANSPORTED IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 14-100a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2025*):

4 (d) (1) (A) Any person who transports a child who is either under
5 [two] three years of age or [weighing] weighs less than thirty pounds in
6 a motor vehicle on the highways of this state shall provide and require
7 the child to ride rear-facing in a child restraint system equipped with a
8 five-point harness approved pursuant to regulations that the
9 Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt in accordance with the
10 provisions of chapter 54.

11 (B) Any person who transports a child who either (i) is under five
12 years of age, but not under [two] three years of age, or [weighing] (ii)
13 weighs less than forty pounds, but not less than thirty pounds, in a
14 motor vehicle on the highways of this state shall provide and require
15 the child to ride rear-facing or forward-facing in a child restraint system

16 equipped with a five-point harness approved pursuant to such
17 regulations.

18 (C) Any person who transports a child who either (i) is under eight
19 years of age, but not under five years of age, or [weighing] (ii) weighs
20 less than sixty pounds, but not less than forty pounds, in a motor vehicle
21 on the highways of this state shall provide and require the child to ride
22 rear-facing or forward-facing in a child restraint system equipped with
23 a five-point harness or a booster seat secured by a seat safety belt
24 approved pursuant to such regulations.

25 (D) A child secured in a child restraint system or booster seat in a
26 motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be
27 secured in a child restraint system or booster seat that is appropriate for
28 the child's weight and height and configured according to the
29 manufacturer of such child restraint system or booster seat and the
30 motor vehicle manufacturer's instructions.

31 ~~[(D)]~~ (E) No person shall transport a child in a motor vehicle on the
32 highways of this state in a rear-facing child restraint system in the front
33 seat of any motor vehicle that is equipped with a functional air bag on
34 the passenger side of such motor vehicle.

35 (2) Any person who transports a child who is eight years of age or
36 older and [weighing] weighs sixty or more pounds in a motor vehicle
37 on the highways of this state shall either provide and require the child
38 to use an approved child restraint system or require the child to use a
39 seat safety belt. Failure to use a child restraint system shall not be
40 considered as contributory negligence nor shall such failure be
41 admissible evidence in any civil action. As used in this subsection,
42 "motor vehicle" does not mean a bus having a tonnage rating of one ton
43 or more.

44 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
45 subsection, any person who transports a child who is four years of age
46 or older in a student transportation vehicle, as defined in section 14-212,

47 on the highways of this state shall either provide and require the child
48 to use an approved child restraint system or require the child to use a
49 seat safety belt. Any person who transports a child who is under four
50 years of age weighing less than forty pounds in a student transportation
51 vehicle on the highways of this state shall provide and require the child
52 to use a child restraint system approved pursuant to such regulations.

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

56 (5) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (1), (2), (3)
57 or (4) of this subsection shall, for a first violation, have committed an
58 infraction; for a second violation, be fined not more than one hundred
59 ninety-nine dollars; and, for a third or subsequent violation, be guilty of
60 a class A misdemeanor. The court may, subsequent to the violation but
61 prior to the imposition of a fine, remit the fine for a first-time violator
62 who presents proof of the acquisition, rental or purchase of a child
63 restraint system or booster seat appropriate for the weight and age of
64 the child that such person transports not later than fourteen days from
65 the date of the violation. The commissioner shall require any person
66 who has committed a first or second violation of the provisions of this
67 subsection to attend a child car seat safety course offered or approved
68 by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The commissioner may, after
69 notice and an opportunity for a hearing, suspend for a period of not
70 more than two months the motor vehicle operator's license of any
71 person who fails to attend or successfully complete the course.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	14-100a(d)

Statement of Purpose:

To require a child (1) under three years of age to ride rear-facing in a child restraint system in a motor vehicle, and (2) be secured in a child

restraint system or booster seat in a manner that complies with the height and weight limits specified by the manufacturer of such system or seat and the motor vehicle manufacturer's instructions.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.; REP. HADDAD, 54th Dist.

S.B. 1146