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## **S.F. No. 4488 - Child passenger restraint provision modifications**

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**S.F. 4488** establishes requirements for child passenger restraints and repeals the petty misdemeanor penalty that exists in current law for child passenger restraint systems.

**Section 1** requires every driver who is transporting a child or children under the age of 18 in motor vehicles to have the child or children properly restrained according to the vehicle and child safety seat's manufacturer's instructions.

Paragraph (a), clause (1) requires a child younger than 2 years old to be restrained in a rear-facing child restraint system that complies with all federal regulations until the child reaches the height or weight limit of the manufacturer.

Clause (2) requires a child who is at least 2 years old and has reached the height and weight limits of a rear-facing child restraint system to be restrained in a forward-facing child restraint system with an internal harness until the child reaches the height and weight restriction of that front-facing system.

Clause (3) requires a child who is at least 4 years old and has reached the height and weight limits of a front-facing child restraint system to be restrained in a belt-positioning child booster seat and secured with a vehicle's lap-shoulder seat belt.

Clause (4) requires a child who is at least 9 years old and has reached the height and weight limits of either a child restraint system or a belt-positioning child booster seat to be restrained with the vehicle's adult safety belt, adjusted and fastened to fit the child correctly. Provides description of what constitutes a correct fit of a safety belt on a child.

Clause (5) requires a child younger than 13 years of age to be transported in the rear seat of a motor vehicle, when available, in a properly-used child restraint system, belt-positioning child booster seat, or adult safety belt that complies with all applicable federal regulations.

Clause (6) requires that a child who, because of weight or their age, must be placed in the most protective category specified in clauses (1) to (4).

Paragraph (b) defines terms.

Paragraph (c) requires a child who is younger than 6 years old or who weighs less than 60 pounds must be transported in a rear seat if the motor vehicle is equipped with (1) a passenger side air bag supplemental restraint system and activated airbags, and (2) rear seats are available.

Paragraph (d) provides that if the number of children under the age of 13 in a motor vehicle exceeds the number of age- or size-appropriate restraint systems and seat belts available in the motor vehicle, the unrestrained children must ride in rear seats if rear seats are available.

**Section 2** repeals current law on passenger restraint systems for children and the petty misdemeanor penalty.