

HB 288 -- Child Passenger Restraints

Sponsor: Fraser

This bill changes the laws regarding child passenger restraints and safety belts. The bill:

- (1) Requires children less than four years of age, regardless of weight, or who weigh less than 40 pounds, regardless of age, to be secured in a child passenger restraint system;
- (2) Requires children four through eight years of age or weighing 40 to 80 pounds or less than four feet nine inches in height to be secured in a child passenger restraint system or booster seat;
- (3) Requires children at least 80 pounds or more than four feet nine inches in height to be secured by a vehicle safety belt;
- (4) Requires car rental agencies doing business in Missouri to inform customers of the requirements of the bill and to provide an appropriate child passenger restraint system;
- (5) Exempts public carriers for hire; and
- (6) Requires the Department of Public Safety to develop a public information program to ensure compliance with child passenger restraint laws.

The exemption on belt usage of drivers and passengers if there are more persons than there are safety belts is removed.

The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2006.