

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to child safety devices in motor
 3 vehicles; amending s. 316.613, F.S.; revising child
 4 restraint requirements for children who are younger
 5 than a specified age and less than a specified height;
 6 requiring such persons to use a separate carrier or
 7 integrated child seat; providing penalties; providing
 8 an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 13 316.613, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 316.613 Child restraint requirements.—

15 (1) (a) Every operator of a motor vehicle as defined in
 16 this section, while transporting a child in a motor vehicle
 17 operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state,
 18 shall, if the child is 7 ½ years of age or younger and less than
 19 4 feet 9 inches in height, provide for protection of the child
 20 by properly using a crash-tested, federally approved child
 21 restraint device.

22 1. For children aged through 3 years, such restraint
 23 device must be a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's
 24 integrated child seat.

25 2. For children aged 4 through 7 ½ years and less than 4
 26 feet 9 inches in height, a separate carrier or~~7~~ an integrated
 27 child seat must~~, or a seat belt may~~ be used.

28 (5) Any person who violates this section commits a moving

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29 violation, punishable as provided in chapter 318 and shall have
30 3 points assessed against his or her driver license as set forth
31 in s. 322.27. In lieu of the penalty specified in s. 318.18 and
32 the assessment of points, a person who violates this section may
33 elect, with the court's approval, to participate in a child
34 restraint safety program approved by the chief judge of the
35 circuit in which the violation occurs, and, upon completing such
36 program, the penalty specified in chapter 318 and associated
37 costs may be waived at the court's discretion and the assessment
38 of points shall be waived. The child restraint safety program
39 must use a course approved by the Department of Highway Safety
40 and Motor Vehicles, and the fee for the course must bear a
41 reasonable relationship to the cost of providing the course.

42 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.