

By Senator Sachs

34-00906-16

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to child transportation safety;  
3           providing a short title; amending s. 316.6135, F.S.;  
4           requiring vehicles used to transport children by  
5           public entities or by private organizations for hire  
6           to be equipped with a certain alarm system by a  
7           specified date; requiring the Department of Highway  
8           Safety and Motor Vehicles to adopt rules and maintain  
9           a list of alarm manufacturers and approved alarm  
10          systems; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; requiring vehicles  
11          used by child care facilities and large family child  
12          care homes to be equipped with a certain alarm system  
13          by a specified date; requiring the Department of  
14          Children and Families to adopt rules and maintain a  
15          list of alarm manufacturers and approved alarm  
16          systems; amending s. 1006.22, F.S.; requiring school  
17          buses to be equipped with a certain alarm system by a  
18          specified date; requiring the State Board of Education  
19          to adopt rules and maintain a list of alarm  
20          manufacturers and approved alarm systems; providing an  
21          effective date.

22  
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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25           Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Haile Brockington  
26 Act."

27           Section 2. Subsection (8) is added to section 316.6135,  
28 Florida Statutes, to read:

29           316.6135 Leaving children unattended or unsupervised in  
30 motor vehicles; penalty; authority of law enforcement officer.-

31           (8) By January 1, 2017, each vehicle used to transport  
32 children by public entities or by private organizations for

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33 hire, including schools, camps, and churches, must be equipped  
34 with an alarm system approved by the department which prompts  
35 the driver to inspect the interior and the exterior of the  
36 vehicle for the presence of children before the driver exits or  
37 departs from the immediate vicinity of the vehicle. The  
38 department shall adopt rules to administer this subsection and  
39 shall maintain a list of alarm manufacturers and alarm systems  
40 required by this subsection that are approved to be installed in  
41 such vehicles.

42 Section 3. Subsection (10) of section 402.305, Florida  
43 Statutes, is amended to read:

44 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

45 (10) TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—

46 (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for child  
47 restraints or seat belts in vehicles used by child care  
48 facilities and large family child care homes to transport  
49 children, requirements for annual inspections of the vehicles,  
50 limitations on the number of children in the vehicles, and  
51 accountability for children being transported.

52 (b)1. By January 1, 2017, vehicles used by child care  
53 facilities and large family child care homes must be equipped  
54 with an alarm system approved by the department which prompts  
55 the driver to inspect the interior and the exterior of the  
56 vehicle for the presence of children before the driver exits or  
57 departs from the immediate vicinity of the vehicle.

58 2. The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
59 paragraph and shall maintain a list of alarm manufacturers and  
60 alarm systems required by this paragraph that are approved to be  
61 installed in such vehicles.

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62 Section 4. Subsection (10) of section 1006.22, Florida  
63 Statutes, is amended to read:

64 1006.22 Safety and health of students being transported.—  
65 Maximum regard for safety and adequate protection of health are  
66 primary requirements that must be observed by district school  
67 boards in routing buses, appointing drivers, and providing and  
68 operating equipment, in accordance with all requirements of law  
69 and rules of the State Board of Education in providing  
70 transportation pursuant to s. 1006.21:

71 (10) Each district school board shall designate and adopt a  
72 specific plan for adequate examination, maintenance, and repair  
73 of transportation equipment. Examination of the mechanical and  
74 safety condition of each school bus must be made as required  
75 pursuant to rule of the State Board of Education. The State  
76 Board of Education shall base the rule on student safety  
77 considerations.

78 (a) By January 1, 2017, each school bus must be equipped  
79 with an alarm system approved by the State Board of Education  
80 which prompts the driver to inspect the interior and the  
81 exterior of the bus for the presence of children before the  
82 driver exits or departs from the immediate vicinity of the bus.

83 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
84 administer paragraph (a) and shall maintain a list of alarm  
85 manufacturers and alarm systems required by paragraph (a) that  
86 are approved to be installed in school buses.

87 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.