

By Senator Stewart

13-00124-21

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to child care facilities; providing a  
3       short title; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; requiring  
4       certain vehicles, by a specified date, to be equipped  
5       with a reliable alarm system that meets specified  
6       criteria; requiring the Department of Children and  
7       Families to adopt by rule minimum safety standards for  
8       such systems and to maintain a list of approved alarm  
9       manufacturers and alarm systems; making technical  
10      changes; providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14       Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Child Safety Alarm  
15 Act."

16       Section 2. Subsection (10) of section 402.305, Florida  
17 Statutes, is amended to read:

18       402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

19       (10) TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—

20       (a) Minimum standards shall include all of the following:

21       1. Requirements for child restraints or seat belts in  
22 vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child  
23 care homes to transport children.

24       2. Requirements for annual inspections of such the  
25 vehicles.

26       3. Limitations on the number of children that may be  
27 transported in such the vehicles.

28       4. Procedures to ensure that ~~avoid leaving~~ children are not  
29 inadvertently left in vehicles when transported by the facility

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30 or home, and that systems are in place to ensure accountability  
31 for children transported by such facilities and homes ~~the child~~  
32 ~~care facility.~~

33 (b) By January 1, 2022, all vehicles used by child care  
34 facilities and large family child care homes to transport  
35 children must be equipped with a reliable alarm system approved  
36 by the department which prompts the driver to inspect the  
37 vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle. The department  
38 shall adopt by rule minimum safety standards for such systems  
39 and shall maintain a list of approved alarm manufacturers and  
40 alarm systems that meet or exceed those standards.

41 (c) A child care facility or large family child care home  
42 is not responsible for the safe transport of children when they  
43 are being transported by a parent or guardian.

44 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2021.