

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to child restraint requirements;  
 3           amending s. 316.613, F.S.; revising requirements for  
 4           the use of a crash-tested, federally approved child  
 5           restraint device while transporting a child in a motor  
 6           vehicle; providing an effective date.

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

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 10           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
 11   316.613, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12           316.613 Child restraint requirements.—

13           (1)(a) Every operator of a motor vehicle as defined in  
 14   this section, while transporting a child in a motor vehicle  
 15   operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state,  
 16   shall, if the child is 7 ~~5~~ years of age or younger, provide for  
 17   protection of the child by properly using a crash-tested,  
 18   federally approved child restraint device.

19           1. For children aged through 2 ~~3~~ years, such restraint  
 20   device must be a rear-facing five-point harness ~~separate carrier~~  
 21   ~~or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child seat.~~

22           2. For children aged 3 ~~4~~ through 4 ~~5~~ years, such restraint  
 23   device must be a forward-facing or rear-facing five-point  
 24   harness.

25           3. For children aged 5 through 7 years, such restraint

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26 | device must be a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or  
27 | a child booster seat that incorporates the use of the motor  
28 | vehicle's safety belt as defined in s. 316.614(3)(b) or must be  
29 | a forward-facing five-point harness ~~may be used~~. However, the  
30 | requirement to use a child restraint device under this  
31 | subparagraph does not apply when a safety belt is used as  
32 | required in s. 316.614(4)(a) and the child:

33 |       a. Is being transported gratuitously by an operator who is  
34 | not a member of the child's immediate family;

35 |       b. Is being transported in a medical emergency situation  
36 | involving the child; or

37 |       c. Has a medical condition that necessitates an exception  
38 | as evidenced by appropriate documentation from a health care  
39 | professional.

40 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.