

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Perry

596-03506-23

20231374c1

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 this
14 section, while transporting a child in a motor vehicle operated
15 on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state, must ~~shall~~,
16 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
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

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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 October 1, 2023.