

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 7 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Clem, Conger, Matthews, Sheehan, Smith J., Holvey, Whisnant

Nays: 0

Exc.: Cameron

Prepared By: Jan Nordlund, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/7, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits a child weighing more than 40 pounds and shorter than 4'9" to use either a child safety system designed for children weighing more than 40 pounds or a booster seat. Provides that a booster seat is not required if the rear seat is not equipped with shoulder belts and the child is secured with a lap belt.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- New technology available for children weighing over 40 pounds
- Desire to have statute written so that new technology will not require new legislation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Police officers have discretion in issuing a citation for violation of child restraint requirements; current law allows for a citation if a child weighing over 40 pounds is not secured in a booster seat, even if the child is riding in a child safety system. House Bill 3590 clarifies that a child weighing over 40 pounds can still ride in a child safety system if it is designed for children weighing more than 40 pounds. Child safety systems typically use a 5-point harness system, which is safer for young children than the lap/shoulder belt used with a booster seat.