

Legislative Analysis



VEHICLE CHILD SEATING SYSTEMS

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Senate Bill 82

Sponsor: Sen. Michelle A. McManus

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: Transportation

Complete to 3-12-08

A SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 82 AS PASSED BY THE SENATE

Currently under the Michigan Vehicle Code, generally speaking, drivers and front-seat passengers in vehicles operated on a street or highway must wear a safety belt, and children under four must ride in a child restraint system.

Senate Bill 82 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to require that a child who is four years of age or older but less than eight, and who is less than four feet nine inches tall, be properly secured in a child restraint system in accordance with the instructions of the child restraint and vehicle manufacturers and with applicable federal standards.

[Note: This bill is similar to House Bill 4536, which passed the House on 6-27-07.]

MCL 257.710e

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would expand the state regulations concerning child passengers in motor vehicles. Under the bill, it would be a civil infraction if a child who is between four years of age or older and less than eight and falls within specific height restrictions is not secured in a child restraint system. The fine for this offense is recommended to be no greater than \$6. The violator would also be assessed court costs of up to \$19 and a Justice System Assessment of \$40.

Because the fine revenue for civil infraction traffic violations go to county treasurers for local libraries, the fine of up to \$6 per offense would generate additional revenue for those libraries. In addition, the assessed court costs of up to \$19 per offense would generate additional revenue for the governmental unit that funds the local court. Each infraction would also be assessed a \$40 Justice System Assessment which would be deposited into the state Justice System Fund (JSF). The JSF supports various justice-related endeavors in the judicial branch, the Department of State Police, and the Department of Corrections. (This information is derived from the HFA analysis of House Bill 4536.)

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