

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Berger, Buckley, Esquivel, Roblan, Thatcher, Rosenbaum
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Hunt
Prepared By:	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires children under one year of age, and persons who weigh 20 pounds or less, riding in a motor vehicle, to be properly secured with a child safety system in a rear-facing position. Requires children under eight years of age, who weigh more than 40 pounds and are four feet nine inches or shorter, to be in a booster seat.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Use of seat belt, booster seats, and other automobile passenger safety equipment designed for children
- Washington State incident involving 4-year-old Anton Skeen
- Current child seat-belt safety regulations and accepted safety standards
- "Safety-belt syndrome" internal organ injuries
- Rates of booster-seat usage
- Education of citizens by law enforcement officers
- Nature of Class D violations
- Federal subsidy
- Provisions of the original bill amended out by the Senate that remain in the A-engrossed bill summary

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** According to at least one study, motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of unintentional injury and death to Oregon children ages 1-14 years. Other studies have shown that children are safest when properly buckled in the back seat of a motor vehicle, and when using a booster seat if they are not tall enough for the shoulder straps to fit properly. In addition, the federal government provides grants to states that enact a booster seat requirement for children who are four feet nine inches or shorter.