

Senate Bill 579

Sponsored by Senator METSGER; Senator DEVLIN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires operator of motor vehicle and certain passengers in motor vehicle to use child safety system, safety belt or safety harness when motor vehicle is operated on premises open to public.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to motor vehicle safety; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 811.210.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 811.210 is amended to read:

5 811.210. (1) A person commits the offense of failure to properly use safety belts if the person:

6 (a) Operates a motor vehicle on the highways of this state [*and*] **or on premises open to the**
7 **public and the person** is not properly secured with a safety belt or safety harness as required by
8 subsection (2) of this section;

9 (b) Operates a motor vehicle on the highways of this state **or on premises open to the public**
10 with a passenger who is under 16 years of age and the passenger is not properly secured with a
11 child safety system, safety belt or safety harness as required by subsection (2) of this section;

12 (c) Is a passenger in a privately owned commercial vehicle, as defined in ORS 801.210, that is
13 designed and used for the transportation of 15 or fewer persons, including the driver, and the person
14 is 16 years of age or older and is responsible for another passenger who is not properly secured with
15 a child safety system as required under subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c) of this section; or

16 (d) Is a passenger in a motor vehicle **being operated** on the highways of this state **or on**
17 **premises open to the public** who is 16 years of age or older and who is not properly secured with
18 a safety belt or safety harness as required by subsection (2) of this section.

19 (2) To comply with this section:

20 (a) A person who is under one year of age, regardless of weight, or a person who weighs 20
21 pounds or less must be properly secured with a child safety system in a rear-facing position.

22 (b) A person who weighs 40 pounds or less must be properly secured with a child safety system
23 that meets the minimum standards and specifications established by the Department of Transporta-
24 tion under ORS 815.055 for child safety systems designed for children weighing 40 pounds or less.

25 (c) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a person who weighs more than 40
26 pounds and who is four feet nine inches or shorter must be properly secured with a child safety
27 system that elevates the person so that a safety belt or safety harness properly fits the person. As
28 used in this paragraph, "properly fits" means the lap belt of the safety belt or safety harness is po-
29 sitioned low across the thighs and the shoulder belt is positioned over the collarbone and away from
30 the neck. The child safety system shall meet the minimum standards and specifications established
31 by the Department of Transportation under ORS 815.055 for child safety systems designed for chil-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 dren who are four feet nine inches or shorter.

2 (d) A person who is taller than four feet nine inches must be properly secured with a safety belt
3 or safety harness that meets requirements under ORS 815.055.

4 (e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, a person who is eight years of age
5 or older need not be secured with a child safety system but must be properly secured with a safety
6 belt or safety harness that meets requirements under ORS 815.055.

7 (3) If the rear seat of a vehicle is not equipped with shoulder belts, the requirements of sub-
8 section (2)(c) of this section do not apply provided the person is secured by a lap belt.

9 (4) The offense described in this section, failure to properly use safety belts, is a Class D traffic
10 violation.

11 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 811.210 by section 1 of this 2009 Act apply to of-**
12 **fenses committed on or after the effective date of this 2009 Act.**

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