

HB 3404 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Knopp

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 05/11/17
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson
Exc: 1 - Steiner Hayward
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires children under age two years to be properly secured with a child safety system in a rear-facing position in a vehicle. Exempts children who are one year or older immediately before effective date of Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Car crashes are leading cause of death for children ages 1-14 years
- Decrease in risk of injury to children under age of two in a rear-facing car seat compared to front-facing

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires children under age one year, or children weighing 20 pounds or less, to be in a rear-facing position in a car seat. A 2007 study in the *Injury Prevention Journal* analyzed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration crash data of 870 children and found that rear-facing car seats are more effective than forward-facing seats in protecting children aged 0-23 months for all crash types. In 2011, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued a recommendation that all infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat until age two years or until they reach the height or weight limit of the car seat's manufacturer. Current available car seats accommodate these recommendations. The AAP reports that infants younger than age two years have relatively large heads and structural features of their neck and spine that place them at particularly high risk of injuries in crashes. Rear-facing car seats support the neck and spine if a crash occurs. Current Oregon law requires children to ride rear-facing until the age of one year, allowing them to turn forward-facing on their birthday.

House Bill 3404-A requires all children in Oregon to ride in rear-facing car safety seats until they reach the age of two years.