

House File 2344 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2344

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 575)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of child restraint devices by
2 certain children traveling in motor vehicles.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.446, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2026,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. A child ~~under one year of age and weighing less~~
4 ~~than twenty pounds who is~~ being transported in a motor
5 vehicle subject to registration, except a school bus or
6 motorcycle, shall be secured during transit in a rear-facing
7 child restraint system, that is used in accordance with the
8 manufacturer's instructions, until the child reaches the age of
9 two or exceeds the manufacturer's recommended maximum height
10 and weight limits for the system.

11 b. A child ~~under six years of age~~ who does not meet the
12 description in paragraph "a" and who is being transported
13 in a motor vehicle subject to registration, except a school
14 bus or motorcycle, shall be secured during transit by a
15 child restraint system, that is used in accordance with the
16 manufacturer's instructions, until the child reaches the age of
17 eight.

18 2. A child at least ~~six~~ eight years of age ~~but under~~
19 ~~eighteen years of age who is~~ being transported in a motor
20 vehicle subject to registration, except a school bus or
21 motorcycle, shall be secured during transit by a child
22 restraint system, that is used in accordance with the
23 manufacturer's instructions, or by a safety belt or safety
24 harness of a type approved under [section 321.445](#), until the
25 child reaches the age of eighteen.

26 Sec. 2. Section 321.446, subsection 3, paragraph d, Code
27 2026, is amended by striking the paragraph.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 This bill relates to the use of child restraint devices by
32 certain children traveling in motor vehicles, including child
33 restraint systems, safety belts, and safety harnesses.

34 Current law requires a child under one year of age and
35 weighing less than 20 pounds who is being transported in a

1 motor vehicle subject to registration, except a school bus
2 or motorcycle, to be secured during transit in a rear-facing
3 child restraint system that is used in accordance with the
4 manufacturer's instructions. The bill extends this requirement
5 to a child under two years of age or until the child exceeds the
6 manufacturer's recommended maximum height and weight limits for
7 the child restraint system.

8 Current law also requires a child under six years of age,
9 who is not subject to the above requirement, and who is being
10 transported in a motor vehicle subject to registration, except
11 a school bus or motorcycle, to be secured during transit by
12 a child restraint system that is used in accordance with the
13 manufacturer's instructions. The bill extends this requirement
14 to children under eight years of age.

15 Accordingly, the bill requires a child at least eight years
16 of age (instead of six) but under 18 years of age who is being
17 transported in a motor vehicle subject to registration, except
18 a school bus or motorcycle, to be secured during transit by
19 a child restraint system that is used in accordance with the
20 manufacturer's instructions or by an approved safety belt or
21 safety harness.

22 The bill strikes a provision that exempts children occupying
23 the back seat of a motor vehicle from having to be secured
24 during transit by a child restraint system, safety belt, or
25 safety harness if no safety belt is available because all
26 safety belts are being used by other occupants or cannot be
27 used due to the use of a child restraint system in the seating
28 position for which a belt is provided.

29 A violation of Code section 321.446 is punishable by a
30 scheduled fine of \$135. The department of transportation is
31 prohibited from considering a violation of Code section 321.446
32 in determining an offender's driver's license suspension under
33 Code section 321.210 or habitual offender status under Code
34 section 321.555.