

By the Committee on Rules; and Senators Stewart and Torres

595-04571-19

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to child care facilities; providing a
3 short title; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; requiring
4 that, by a specified date, vehicles used by child care
5 facilities and large family child care homes to
6 transport children be equipped with a reliable alarm
7 system that prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle
8 for children before exiting the vehicle; requiring the
9 Department of Children and Families to adopt by rule
10 minimum safety standards and to maintain a list of
11 approved alarm manufacturers and alarm systems;
12 providing an effective date.

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Child Safety Alarm
17 Act."

18 Section 2. Subsection (10) of section 402.305, Florida
19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

21 (10) TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—

22 (a) Minimum standards shall include all of the following:

23 1. Requirements for child restraints or seat belts in
24 vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child
25 care homes to transport children.

26 2. Requirements for annual inspections of such the
27 vehicles.

28 3. Limitations on the number of children that may be
29 transported in such the vehicles.

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30 4.7 Procedures to ensure that ~~avoid leaving~~ children are not
31 inadvertently left in vehicles when transported by the facility~~7~~
32 and that systems are in place to ensure accountability for
33 children transported by such facilities and homes ~~the child care~~
34 ~~facility~~.

35 (b) By January 1, 2020, all vehicles used by child care
36 facilities and large family child care homes to transport
37 children must be equipped with a reliable alarm system approved
38 by the department which prompts the driver to inspect the
39 vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle. The department
40 shall adopt by rule minimum safety standards for such systems
41 and shall maintain a list of approved alarm manufacturers and
42 alarm systems that meet or exceed those standards.

43 (c) A child care facility or large family child care home
44 is not responsible for the safe transport of children when they
45 are being transported by a parent or guardian.

46 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2019.