

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to child restraint requirements;
 3 amending s. 316.613, F.S.; revising requirements for
 4 the use of a crash-tested, federally approved child
 5 restraint device while transporting a child in a motor
 6 vehicle; providing an effective date.

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

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 10 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 11 316.613, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 316.613 Child restraint requirements.—

13 (1)(a) Every operator of a motor vehicle as defined in
 14 this section, while transporting a child in a motor vehicle
 15 operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state,
 16 shall, if the child is 7 ~~5~~ years of age or younger, provide for
 17 protection of the child by properly using a crash-tested,
 18 federally approved child restraint device.

19 1. For children aged through 2 ~~3~~ years, such restraint
 20 device must be a rear-facing five-point harness ~~separate carrier~~
 21 ~~or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child seat.~~

22 2. For children aged 3 ~~4~~ through 4 ~~5~~ years, such restraint
 23 device must be a forward-facing or rear-facing five-point
 24 harness.

25 3. For children aged 5 through 7 years, such restraint

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26 | device must be a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or
27 | a child booster seat that incorporates the use of the motor
28 | vehicle's safety belt as defined in s. 316.614(3)(b) or must be
29 | a forward-facing five-point harness ~~may be used~~. However, the
30 | requirement to use a child restraint device under this
31 | subparagraph does not apply when a safety belt is used as
32 | required in s. 316.614(4)(a) and the child:

33 | a. Is being transported gratuitously by an operator who is
34 | not a member of the child's immediate family;

35 | b. Is being transported in a medical emergency situation
36 | involving the child; or

37 | c. Has a medical condition that necessitates an exception
38 | as evidenced by appropriate documentation from a health care
39 | professional.

40 | Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2023.