

HB 1037

2024

26 | deaths or serious injuries as the result of heat stroke, and
 27 | WHEREAS, Kids and Car Safety reports that, between 1990 and
 28 | 2022, at least 8,000 children were left alone in hot cars or
 29 | independently gained access to unoccupied cars, with more than
 30 | 990 of those children dying of heat stroke and more than 1,200
 31 | of them becoming seriously injured, and

32 | WHEREAS, despite widespread education programs and public
 33 | awareness initiatives over the past 30 years, the number of hot
 34 | car deaths among children has continued to rise, and

35 | WHEREAS, inexpensive technology is currently available to
 36 | detect and alert drivers to the presence of an unattended
 37 | occupant in a vehicle, NOW, THEREFORE,

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 39 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 41 | Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Jace Lucas Leslie
 42 | Act."

43 | Section 2. Section 316.2226, Florida Statutes, is created
 44 | to read:

45 | 316.2226 Unattended occupant alarm system required.-

46 | (1) As used in this section, the term "motor vehicle"
 47 | means a motor vehicle as defined in s. 316.003 which is operated
 48 | on the roadways, streets, and highways of this state. The term
 49 | does not include:

50 | (a) A bus used for the transportation of persons for

51 compensation.

52 (b) A farm tractor or implement of husbandry.

53 (c) A truck having a gross vehicle weight rating of more
54 than 26,000 pounds.

55 (d) A motorcycle, a moped, a bicycle, or an electric
56 bicycle.

57 (2) By October 1, 2024, a person who uses a motor vehicle
58 to transport one or more children 6 years of age or younger must
59 equip such motor vehicle with an alarm system approved by the
60 department which prompts the driver to inspect the motor vehicle
61 for unattended occupants before exiting the motor vehicle.

62 (3) A violation of this section is a noncriminal traffic
63 infraction, punishable as a moving violation as provided in
64 chapter 318.

65 (4) By September 1, 2024, the department shall initiate a
66 public awareness campaign to educate individuals regarding the
67 alarm system required under subsection (2).

68 (5) The department shall adopt by rule minimum safety
69 standards for such systems and shall maintain a list of approved
70 alarm manufacturers and alarm systems that meet or exceed those
71 standards.

72 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section
73 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

74 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

75 (10) TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—

76 (a) Minimum standards must ~~shall~~ include all of the
 77 following:

78 1. Requirements for child restraints or seat belts in
 79 vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child
 80 care homes to transport children.

81 2. Requirements for annual inspections of such vehicles.

82 3. Limitations on the number of children who ~~that~~ may be
 83 transported in such vehicles.

84 4. Procedures to ensure that children are not
 85 inadvertently left in vehicles when transported by the facility
 86 or home and that systems are in place to ensure accountability
 87 for children transported by such facilities and homes.

88 5. Procedures for notification of a child's emergency
 89 contact if the child does not arrive at the scheduled time and
 90 the facility or family day care home has not received an
 91 advanced notification of the child's absence.

92 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.