

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with a child safety alert system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 2016

To authorize elements of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. BLUMENTHAL

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle B of title IV, add the following:

2 **SEC. 42 ____ . CHILD SAFETY.**

3 (a) AMENDMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 323 of title 49,

5 United States Code, is amended by adding after sec-

6 tion 32304A the following:

7 **“§ 32304B. Child safety**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term

10 ‘passenger motor vehicle’ has the meaning given that

11 term in section 32101.

1 “(2) REAR-DESIGNATED SEATING POSITION.—

2 The term ‘rear-designated seating position’ means
3 designated seating positions that are rearward of the
4 front seat.

5 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
6 the Secretary of Transportation.

7 “(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the
8 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
9 issue a final rule requiring all new passenger motor vehi-
10 cles weighing less than 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight
11 to be equipped with a system to alert the operator to check
12 rear-designated seating positions after the vehicle engine
13 or motor is deactivated by the operator.

14 “(c) MEANS.—The alert required under subsection
15 (b)—

16 “(1) shall include a distinct auditory and visual
17 alert, which may be combined with a haptic alert;
18 and

19 “(2) shall be activated when the vehicle motor
20 is deactivated by the operator.

21 “(d) PHASE-IN.—The rule issued pursuant to sub-
22 section (b) shall require full compliance with the rule be-
23 ginning on September 1st of the first calendar year that
24 begins 2 years after the date on which the final rule is
25 issued.”.

1 technologies that may address the problem
2 of children left in rear-designated seating
3 positions of motor vehicles after deactiva-
4 tion of the motor vehicles by an operator;
5 and

6 (ii) the potential benefits and burdens,
7 logistical or economic, associated with
8 widespread use of those technologies.

9 (B) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the
10 study under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
11 shall—

12 (i) survey and evaluate a variety of
13 methods used by current and emerging
14 aftermarket technologies or products to re-
15 duce the risk of children being left in rear-
16 designated seating positions after deactiva-
17 tion of a motor vehicle; and

18 (ii) provide recommendations—

19 (I) for manufacturers of the tech-
20 nologies and products described in
21 clause (i) to carry out a functional
22 safety performance evaluation to en-
23 sure that the technologies and prod-
24 ucts perform as designed by the man-

1 manufacturer under a variety of real-world
2 conditions; and

3 (II) for consumers on methods to
4 select an appropriate technology or
5 product described in clause (i) in
6 order to retrofit existing vehicles.

7 (2) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than
8 180 days after the date on which the Secretary
9 issues the final rule required by section 32304B(b)
10 of title 49, United States Code (as added by sub-
11 section (a)(1)), the Secretary shall submit a report
12 describing the results of the study carried out under
13 paragraph (1) to—

14 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
15 and Transportation of the Senate; and

16 (B) the Committee on Energy and Com-
17 merce of the House of Representatives.