

FOR the purpose of advancing highway safety in this State by requiring that any person transporting a child of a certain age in certain vehicles position and secure the child in a child safety seat, properly fastened seat belt or combination seat belt-shoulder harness, under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; providing an exemption under certain circumstances; providing that a violation is not contributory negligence and may not be admitted in evidence; providing that a violation subjects the violator to a certain penalty; providing for the waiver of a certain penalty under certain circumstances; providing that the Department of Transportation and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall jointly implement this program and promote compliance through certain efforts; providing for a delayed effective date of this Act; and generally relating to the use of child safety seats in motor vehicles.

BY adding to

Article - Transportation  
Section 22-412.2  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1977 Volume and 1982 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland State Police statistics indicate that from January 1980 through August 1982, 22 children died under the age of 5 and 1,455 were injured on Maryland highways; and

WHEREAS, Children up to the age of 5 have a much greater risk of injury due to their small size, early skeletal development, and dependence on others for safety decisions; and

WHEREAS, The proper use of child safety seats has been demonstrated to be an effective means of reducing child fatalities and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, Significant reductions in the social and economic burdens on families, insurers, and the public may be achieved through the implementation of a child safety seat program; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has already instituted a program to loan seats to persons with young children; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 20 states have already enacted similar legislation, including most of our neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, It is the purpose of this Act to protect the health and safety of all children in Maryland; now, therefore,