

Senator Hollis French


Capitol Room 417
465-3892
465-6595 fax



MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/11/2009

To: Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
Representative Mike Hawker, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee

From: Senator Hollis French 

RE: Summary of changes - SB 72 Child Safety Seats and Seat Belts

This memo describes the changes made to Senate Bill 72 during this legislative session.

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 72:

The House State Affairs committee passed a conceptual amendment for children between 8 and 15 years old who do not fit neatly into the other categories. The amendment makes clear that the driver of the car is empowered to decide whether the child uses a booster seat or a regular seat belt.

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 72 (TRA):

This CS added a new Section 1 to the bill, which specifies that the Department of Transportation can erect signs encouraging the use of child safety devices where a fatality occurred as a result of a child not being properly restrained. Section 1 of the original draft is now Section 2 of the bill.

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 72(STA)

This CS made two minor changes:

1. Page 1 line 15: Changed the phrase "over twenty pounds" to "twenty pounds or more." This change was recommended by the Department of Transportation's Chief Counsel to make it extra clear that children who weigh 20 pounds or more

require the use of a child restraint device. Before, with the bill specifying requirements for children under 20 pounds and children over 20 pounds, the legislation could be read as not requiring any special restraints for children weighing exactly 20 pounds.

2. Page 2 line 12: Changed "not yet 16 years of age" to "less than 16 years of age." This doesn't change the bill at all - it is purely stylistic to match everywhere else in the bill that refers to individuals below a certain age.