As Passed by the Senate

127th General Assembly Regular Session 2007-2008

Am. Sub. H. B. No. 320

Representative Jones

Cosponsors: Representatives Brown, Evans, McGregor, J., Schindel, Stebelton, Uecker, Combs, Domenick, Newcomb, Ujvagi, Wachtmann, Boyd, Chandler, DeBose, DeGeeter, Dyer, Gardner, Heard, Hite, Hottinger, Koziura, Oelslager, Schneider, Skindell, Widener, Williams, S., Yates, Yuko Senators Miller, D., Austria, Lehner, Kearney, Stivers, Morano, Padgett

ABILL

Го	amend sections 4507.071, 4511.093, 4511.81, and	1
	4513.263 of the Revised Code to require certain	2
	children who are between four and eight years of	3
	age to be secured in a booster seat, to make	4
	violation of the booster seat provisions a	5
	secondary traffic offense, and to allow a court,	6
	under certain circumstances, to grant	7
	unaccompanied driving privileges one time to a	8
	probationary driver's license holder who, because	9
	of a moving violation, otherwise would be subject	10
	to a restriction that the person be accompanied by	11
	the holder's parent or guardian.	12

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4507.071, 4511.093, 4511.81, and	13
4513.263 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	14
Sec. 4507.071. (A) No driver's license shall be issued to any	15

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person under eighteen years of age, except that a probationary	16
license may be issued to a person who is at least sixteen years of	17
age and has held a temporary instruction permit for a period of at	18
least six months.	19
(B)(1)(a) No holder of a probationary driver's license who	20
has not attained the age of seventeen years shall operate a motor	21
vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by	22
the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the	23
hours of midnight and six a.m. unless the holder is accompanied by	24
the holder's parent or guardian.	25
(b) No holder of a probationary driver's license who has	26
attained the age of seventeen years but has not attained the age	27
of eighteen years shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or	28
any public or private property used by the public for purposes of	29
vehicular travel or parking between the hours of one a.m. and five	30
a.m. unless the holder is accompanied by the holder's parent or	31
guardian.	32
(2)(a) Subject to division (D)(1)(a) of this section,	33
division (B)(1)(a) of this section does not apply to the holder of	34
a probationary driver's license who is traveling to or from work	35
between the hours of midnight and six a.m. and has in the holder's	36
immediate possession written documentation from the holder's	37
employer.	38
(b) Division (B)(1)(b) of this section does not apply to the	39
holder of a probationary driver's license who is traveling to or	40
from work between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m. and has in	41
the holder's immediate possession written documentation from the	42
holder's employer.	43
(3) An employer is not liable in damages in a civil action	44

for any injury, death, or loss to person or property that

allegedly arises from, or is related to, the fact that the

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employer provided an employee who is the holder of a probationary 47 driver's license with the written documentation described in 48 division (B)(2) of this section.

The registrar of motor vehicles shall make available at no cost a form to serve as the written documentation described in division (B)(2) of this section, and employers and holders of probationary driver's licenses may utilize that form or may choose to utilize any other written documentation to meet the requirements of that division.

- (4) No holder of a probationary driver's license who is less than seventeen years of age shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking with more than one person who is not a family member occupying the vehicle unless the probationary license holder is accompanied by the probationary license holder's parent, guardian, or custodian.
- (C) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of division 63
 (B)(1)(a) or (b) of this section if, at the time of the violation, 64
 the holder of the probationary driver's license was traveling to 65
 or from an official function sponsored by the school the holder 66
 attends, or an emergency existed that required the holder to 67
 operate a motor vehicle in violation of division (B)(1)(a) or (b) 68
 of this section, or the holder was an emancipated minor. 69
- $(D)(1)(a) \rightarrow E$ Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2)70 of this section, if a person is issued a probationary driver's 71 license prior to attaining the age of seventeen years and the 72 person pleads guilty to, is convicted of, or is adjudicated in 73 juvenile court of having committed a moving violation during the 74 six-month period commencing on the date on which the person is 75 issued the probationary driver's license, the holder must be 76 accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian whenever the holder 77 78 is operating a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or

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private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular	79
travel or parking during whichever of the following time periods	80
applies:	81
(i) If, on the date the holder of the probationary driver's	82
license pleads guilty to, is convicted of, or is adjudicated in	83
juvenile court of having committed the moving violation, the	84
holder has not attained the age of sixteen years six months,	85
during the six-month period commencing on that date;	86
(ii) If, on the date the holder pleads guilty to, is	87
convicted of, or is adjudicated in juvenile court of having	88
committed the moving violation, the holder has attained the age of	89
sixteen years six months but not seventeen years, until the person	90
attains the age of seventeen years.	91
(b) If the holder of a probationary driver's license commits	92
a moving violation during the six-month period after the person is	93
issued the probationary driver's license and before the person	94
attains the age of seventeen years and on the date the person	95
pleads guilty to, is convicted of, or is adjudicated in juvenile	96
court of having committed the moving violation the person has	97
attained the age of seventeen years, or if the person commits the	98
moving violation during the six-month period after the person is	99
issued the probationary driver's license and after the person	100
attains the age of seventeen years, the holder is not subject to	101
the restriction described in divisions $(D)(1)(a)(i)$ and (ii) of	102
this section unless the court or juvenile court imposes such a	103
restriction upon the holder.	104
(2) Any person who is subject to the operating restrictions	105
established under division (D)(1) of this section as a result of a	106
first moving violation may petition the court for occupational or	107
educational driving privileges without being accompanied by the	108
holder's parent or guardian during the period of time specified in	109

that division. The court may grant the person such driving

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privileges if the court finds reasonable cause to believe that the	111
restrictions established in division (D)(1) will seriously affect	112
the person's ability to continue in employment or educational	113
training or will cause undue hardship on the license holder or a	114
family member of the license holder. In granting the driving	115
privileges, the court shall specify the purposes, times, and	116
places of the privileges and shall issue the person appropriate	117
forms setting forth the privileges granted. Occupational or	118
educational driving privileges under this division shall not be	119
granted to the same person more than once. If a person is	120
convicted of, pleads guilty to, or is adjudicated in juvenile	121
court of having committed a second or subsequent moving violation,	122
any driving privileges previously granted under this division are	123
terminated upon the subsequent conviction, plea, or adjudication.	124
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(3) No person shall violate division (D)(1)(a) of this	126
section.	127
(E) No holder of a probationary license shall operate a motor	128
vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by	129
the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking unless the	130
total number of occupants of the vehicle does not exceed the total	131
number of occupant restraining devices originally installed in the	132
motor vehicle by its manufacturer, and each occupant of the	133
vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly	134
adjusted occupant restraining device.	135
(F) A restricted license may be issued to a person who is	136
fourteen or fifteen years of age upon proof of hardship	137
satisfactory to the registrar of motor vehicles.	138
(G) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the	139
contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause the operator of a	140

motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the

motor vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether each

distribute information.

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- (g) An eligible adult, as defined in section 4507.05 of the 173 Revised Code. 174 (3) "Moving violation" means any violation of any statute or 175 ordinance that regulates the operation of vehicles, streetcars, or 176 trackless trolleys on the highways or streets. "Moving violation" 177 does not include a violation of section 4513.263 of the Revised 178 Code or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, or a 179 violation of any statute or ordinance regulating pedestrians or 180 the parking of vehicles, vehicle size or load limitations, vehicle 181 fitness requirements, or vehicle registration. 182 (J) Whoever violates division (B)(1) or (4), (D) $\frac{(2)}{(3)}$, or 183 (E) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. 184 Sec. 4511.093. (A)(1) No law enforcement officer who stops 185 the operator of a motor vehicle in the course of an authorized 186 sobriety or other motor vehicle checkpoint operation or a motor 187 vehicle safety inspection shall issue a ticket, citation, or 188 summons for a secondary traffic offense unless in the course of 189 the checkpoint operation or safety inspection the officer first 190 determines that an offense other than a secondary traffic offense 191 has occurred and either places the operator or a vehicle occupant 192 under arrest or issues a ticket, citation, or summons to the 193 operator or a vehicle occupant for an offense other than a 194 secondary offense. 195 (2) A law enforcement agency that operates a motor vehicle 196 checkpoint for an express purpose related to a secondary traffic 197 offense shall not issue a ticket, citation, or summons for any 198 secondary traffic offense at such a checkpoint, but may use such a 199 checkpoint operation to conduct a public awareness campaign and 200
- (B) As used in this section, "secondary traffic offense" 202 means a violation of division (A) or (F)(2) of section 4507.05, 203

4511.01 of the Revised Code or a vehicle that is regulated under

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section 5104.011 of the Revised Code, that is required by the	234
United States department of transportation to be equipped with	235
seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly, the operator of	236
the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in	237
accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on a booster seat	238
that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.	239

(D) When any child who is at least four eight years of age 240 but not older than fifteen years of age, and who is not otherwise 241 required by division (A), (B), or (C) of this section to be 242 secured in a child restraint system or booster seat, is being 243 transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public 244 safety vehicle as defined in section 4511.01 of the Revised Code, 245 that is required by the United States department of transportation 246 to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or 247 assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child 248 properly restrained either in accordance with the manufacturer's 249 instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor 250 vehicle safety standards or in an occupant restraining device as 251 defined in section 4513.263 of the Revised Code. 252

(D)(E) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, 254 no law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of a motor 255 vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the motor 256 vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of 257 division (C) or (D) of this section has been or is being committed 258 or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons 259 for a violation of that nature division (C) or (D) of this section 260 or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person 261 for a violation of that nature division (C) or (D) of this 262 section, and no absent another violation of law, a law enforcement 263 officer shall officer's view of the interior or visually inspect 264 any automobile visual inspection of a motor vehicle being operated 265

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on any street or highway <u>may not be used</u> for the sole purpose of	266
determining whether a violation of that nature division (C) or (D)	267
of this section has been or is being committed.	268

 $\frac{(E)(F)}{(F)}$ The director of public safety shall adopt such rules as are necessary to carry out this section.

(F)(G) The failure of an operator of a motor vehicle to secure a child in a child restraint system, a booster seat, or in an occupant restraining device as required by this section is not negligence imputable to the child, is not admissible as evidence in any civil action involving the rights of the child against any other person allegedly liable for injuries to the child, is not to be used as a basis for a criminal prosecution of the operator of the motor vehicle other than a prosecution for a violation of this section, and is not admissible as evidence in any criminal action involving the operator of the motor vehicle other than a prosecution for a violation of this section.

(G)(H) This section does not apply when an emergency exists 283 that threatens the life of any person operating or occupying a 284 motor vehicle and to whom this section otherwise would apply or 285 the life of any that is being used to transport a child who 286 otherwise would be required to be restrained under this section. 287 This section does not apply to a person operating a motor vehicle 288 who has an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in 289 this state under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code or a 290 chiropractor licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 291 4734. of the Revised Code that states that the child who otherwise 292 would be required to be restrained under this section has a 293 physical impairment that makes use of a child restraint system, 294 booster seat, or an occupant restraining device impossible or 295 impractical, provided that the person operating the vehicle has 296 safely and appropriately restrained the child in accordance with 297

any recommendations of the physician or chiropractor as noted on	298
the affidavit.	299
$\frac{(H)(I)}{(I)}$ There is hereby created in the state treasury the	300
-child highway safety fund, - consisting of fines imposed pursuant	301
to division $\frac{(J)(K)}{(1)}$ of this section for violations of divisions	302
(A), (B), and (C), and (D) of this section. The money in the fund	303
shall be used by the department of health only to defray the cost	304
of designating hospitals as pediatric trauma centers under section	305
3727.081 of the Revised Code and to establish and administer a	306
child highway safety program. The purpose of the program shall be	307
to educate the public about child restraint systems generally and	308
booster seats and the importance of their proper use. The program	309
also shall include a process for providing child restraint systems	310
and booster seats to persons who meet the eligibility criteria	311
established by the department, and a toll-free telephone number	312
the public may utilize to obtain information about child restraint	313
systems and booster seats, and their proper use.	314
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$\frac{(1)}{(J)}$ The director of health, in accordance with Chapter	316
119. of the Revised Code, shall adopt any rules necessary to carry	317
out this section, including rules establishing the criteria a	318
person must meet in order to receive a child restraint system or	319
booster seat under the department's child restraint system highway	320
safety program; provided that rules relating to the verification	321
of pediatric trauma centers shall not be adopted under this	322
section.	323
(J)(K) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require	324
any person to carry with the person the birth certificate of a	325
child to prove the age of the child, but the production of a valid	326
birth certificate for a child showing that the child was not of an	327
age to which this section applies is a defense against any ticket,	328

citation, or summons issued for violating this section.

$(L)(1)$ Whoever violates division (A), (B), $\frac{\partial F}{\partial t}$ (C), or (D) of	330
this section shall be punished as follows, provided that the	331
failure of an operator of a motor vehicle to secure more than one	332
child in a child restraint system, booster seat, or occupant	333
restraining device as required by this section that occurred at	334
the same time, on the same day, and at the same location is deemed	335
to be a single violation of this section:	336
(a) Except as otherwise provided in division $\frac{(J)(L)}{(1)}(1)$ of	337
this section, the offender is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and	338
shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than	339
seventy-five dollars.	340
(b) If the offender previously has been convicted of or	341
pleaded guilty to a violation of division (A), (B), or (C), or (D)	342
of this section or of a municipal ordinance that is substantially	343
similar to any of those divisions, the offender is guilty of a	344
misdemeanor of the fourth degree.	345
(2) All fines imposed pursuant to division $\frac{(J)(L)}{(1)}$ of this	346
section shall be forwarded to the treasurer of state for deposit	347
in the "child highway safety fund" created by division $\frac{(H)(I)}{(I)}$ of	348
this section.	349
Sec. 4513.263. (A) As used in this section and in section	350
4513.99 of the Revised Code:	351
(1) "Automobile" means any commercial tractor, passenger car,	352
commercial car, or truck that is required to be factory-equipped	353
with an occupant restraining device for the operator or any	354
passenger by regulations adopted by the United States secretary of	355
transportation pursuant to the "National Traffic and Motor Vehicle	356
Safety Act of 1966," 80 Stat. 719, 15 U.S.C.A. 1392.	357
(2) "Occupant restraining device" means a seat safety belt,	358

shoulder belt, harness, or other safety device for restraining a

person who is an operator of or passenger in an automobile and	360
that satisfies the minimum federal vehicle safety standards	361
established by the United States department of transportation.	362
(3) "Passenger" means any person in an automobile, other than	363
its operator, who is occupying a seating position for which an	364
occupant restraining device is provided.	365
(4) "Commercial tractor," "passenger car," and "commercial	366
car" have the same meanings as in section 4501.01 of the Revised	367
Code.	368
(5) "Vehicle" and "motor vehicle," as used in the definitions	369
of the terms set forth in division $(A)(4)$ of this section, have	370
the same meanings as in section 4511.01 of the Revised Code.	371
(6) "Tort action" means a civil action for damages for	372
injury, death, or loss to person or property. "Tort action"	373
includes a product liability claim, as defined in section 2307.71	374
of the Revised Code, and an asbestos claim, as defined in section	375
2307.91 of the Revised Code, but does not include a civil action	376
for damages for breach of contract or another agreement between	377
persons.	378
(B) No person shall do any of the following:	379
(1) Operate an automobile on any street or highway unless	380
that person is wearing all of the available elements of a properly	381
adjusted occupant restraining device, or operate a school bus that	382
has an occupant restraining device installed for use in its	383
operator's seat unless that person is wearing all of the available	384
elements of the device, as properly adjusted;	385
(2) Operate an automobile on any street or highway unless	386
each passenger in the automobile who is subject to the requirement	387
set forth in division (B)(3) of this section is wearing all of the	388
available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining	389
device;	390

- (3) Occupy, as a passenger, a seating position on the front 391 seat of an automobile being operated on any street or highway 392 unless that person is wearing all of the available elements of a 393 properly adjusted occupant restraining device; 394
- (4) Operate a taxicab on any street or highway unless all
 factory-equipped occupant restraining devices in the taxicab are
 maintained in usable form.
- (C) Division (B)(3) of this section does not apply to a 398 person who is required by section 4511.81 of the Revised Code to 399 be secured in a child restraint device or booster seat. Division 400 (B)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who is an 401 employee of the United States postal service or of a newspaper 402 home delivery service, during any period in which the person is 403 engaged in the operation of an automobile to deliver mail or 404 newspapers to addressees. Divisions (B)(1) and (3) of this section 405 do not apply to a person who has an affidavit signed by a 406 physician licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4731. 407 of the Revised Code or a chiropractor licensed to practice in this 408 state under Chapter 4734. of the Revised Code that states that the 409 person has a physical impairment that makes use of an occupant 410 restraining device impossible or impractical. 411
- (D) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no 412 law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of an automobile 413 being operated on any street or highway to stop the automobile for 414 the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of division 415 (B) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole 416 purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons for a violation 417 of that nature or causing the arrest of or commencing a 418 prosecution of a person for a violation of that nature, and no law 419 enforcement officer shall view the interior or visually inspect 420 any automobile being operated on any street or highway for the 421 sole purpose of determining whether a violation of that nature has 422

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been or is being committed. 423 (E) All fines collected for violations of division (B) of 424 this section, or for violations of any ordinance or resolution of 425 a political subdivision that is substantively comparable to that 426 division, shall be forwarded to the treasurer of state for deposit 427 as follows: 428 (1) Eight per cent shall be deposited into the seat belt 429 education fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury, and 430 shall be used by the department of public safety to establish a 431 seat belt education program. 432 (2) Eight per cent shall be deposited into the elementary 433 school program fund, which is hereby created in the state 434 treasury, and shall be used by the department of public safety to 435 establish and administer elementary school programs that encourage 436 seat safety belt use. 437 (3) Two per cent shall be deposited into the occupational 438 licensing and regulatory fund created by section 4743.05 of the 439 Revised Code. 440 (4) Twenty-eight per cent shall be deposited into the trauma 441 and emergency medical services fund, which is hereby created in 442 the state treasury, and shall be used by the department of public 443 safety for the administration of the division of emergency medical 444 services and the state board of emergency medical services. 445 (5) Fifty-four per cent shall be deposited into the trauma 446 and emergency medical services grants fund, which is hereby 447 created in the state treasury, and shall be used by the state 448 board of emergency medical services to make grants, in accordance 449 with section 4765.07 of the Revised Code and rules the board 450 adopts under section 4765.11 of the Revised Code. 451

(F)(1) Subject to division (F)(2) of this section, the

failure of a person to wear all of the available elements of a

properly adjusted occupant restraining device in violation of	454
division (B)(1) or (3) of this section or the failure of a person	455
to ensure that each minor who is a passenger of an automobile	456
being operated by that person is wearing all of the available	457
elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device in	458
violation of division (B)(2) of this section shall not be	459
considered or used by the trier of fact in a tort action as	460
evidence of negligence or contributory negligence. But, the trier	461
of fact may determine based on evidence admitted consistent with	462
the Ohio Rules of Evidence that the failure contributed to the	463
harm alleged in the tort action and may diminish a recovery of	464
compensatory damages that represents noneconomic loss, as defined	465
in section 2307.011 of the Revised Code, in a tort action that	466
could have been recovered but for the plaintiff's failure to wear	467
all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant	468
restraining device. Evidence of that failure shall not be used as	469
a basis for a criminal prosecution of the person other than a	470
prosecution for a violation of this section; and shall not be	471
admissible as evidence in a criminal action involving the person	472
other than a prosecution for a violation of this section.	473

(2) If, at the time of an accident involving a passenger car 474 equipped with occupant restraining devices, any occupant of the 475 passenger car who sustained injury or death was not wearing an 476 available occupant restraining device, was not wearing all of the 477 available elements of such a device, or was not wearing such a 478 device as properly adjusted, then, consistent with the Rules of 479 Evidence, the fact that the occupant was not wearing the available 480 occupant restraining device, was not wearing all of the available 481 elements of such a device, or was not wearing such a device as 482 properly adjusted is admissible in evidence in relation to any 483 claim for relief in a tort action to the extent that the claim for 484 relief satisfies all of the following: 485

(a) It seeks to recover damages for injury or death to the	486
occupant.	487
(b) The defendant in question is the manufacturer, designer,	488
distributor, or seller of the passenger car.	489
(c) The claim for relief against the defendant in question is	490
that the injury or death sustained by the occupant was enhanced or	491
aggravated by some design defect in the passenger car or that the	492
passenger car was not crashworthy.	493
(G)(1) Whoever violates division (B)(1) of this section shall	494
be fined thirty dollars.	495
(2) Whoever violates division (B)(3) of this section shall be	496
fined twenty dollars.	497
(3) Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever	498
violates division (B)(4) of this section is guilty of a minor	499
misdemeanor. If the offender previously has been convicted of or	500
pleaded guilty to a violation of division (B)(4) of this section,	501
whoever violates division $(B)(4)$ of this section is guilty of a	502
misdemeanor of the third degree.	503
Section 2. That existing sections 4507.071, 4511.093,	504
4511.81, and 4513.263 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	505
Section 3. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the	506
contrary, during the first six months after the effective date of	507
this section, no person who violates division (C) of section	508
4511.81 of the Revised Code concerning the use of booster seats,	509
as that division is amended by this act, shall be issued a ticket,	510
citation, or summons in relation to the violation or be arrested	511
for the violation. Instead, the person shall be issued a written	512
warning that states the requirements contained in division (C) of	513
section 4511.81 of the Revised Code, as amended by this act. In	514
addition, the warning shall explain that on or after a date	515

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certain, which date shall be six months after the effective date	516
of this section, the law will allow a person to be charged with	517
and prosecuted for such a violation.	518
Section 4. Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act, except for	519
section 4507.071 of the Revised Code, shall take effect six months	520
after the effective date of this act. Section 4507.071 of the	521
Revised Code, as amended by this act, shall take effect at the	522
earliest time permitted by law.	523