As Reported by the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee

127th General Assembly Regular Session 2007-2008

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 Senator Miller, D.

A BILL

To 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 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 |
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| 4513 | 263 of the | Revised Code | be amended | to read as | s follows: | : | 1.4 |

| 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

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

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allegedly arises from, or is related to, the fact that the employer provided an employee who is the holder of a probationary driver's license with the written documentation described in 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
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 highway or any public or private property used by the public for
 purposes of vehicular travel or parking with more than one person
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 who is not a family member occupying the vehicle unless the
 probationary license holder is accompanied by the probationary
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 license holder's parent, guardian, or custodian.
- (C) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of division

 (B)(1)(a) or (b) of this section if, at the time of the violation,

 the holder of the probationary driver's license was traveling to

 or from an official function sponsored by the school the holder

 attends, or an emergency existed that required the holder to

 operate a motor vehicle in violation of division (B)(1)(a) or (b)

 of this section, or the holder was an emancipated minor.
- $(D)(1)(a) \stackrel{\text{If}}{=} Except$ 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 77 accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian whenever the holder

is operating a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or 78 private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular 79 travel or parking during whichever of the following time periods 80 applies:

- (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

 convicted of, or is adjudicated in juvenile court of having

 sommitted the moving violation, the holder has attained the age of

 sixteen years six months but not seventeen years, until the person

 attains the age of seventeen years.

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- 92 (b) If the holder of a probationary driver's license commits 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

 established under division (D)(1) of this section as a result of a

 first moving violation may petition the court for occupational or

 educational driving privileges without being accompanied by the

 holder's parent or quardian during the period of time specified in

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| that division. The court may grant the person such driving | 110 |
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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 |
| | 125 |
| (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

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

restraint system, is being transported in a motor vehicle, other

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than a taxicab or public safety vehicle as defined in section

4511.01 of the Revised Code, that is required by the United States

department of transportation to be equipped with seat belts at the

time of manufacture or assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle

shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the

manufacturer's instructions on a booster seat that meets federal

motor vehicle safety standards.

(D) When any child who is at least four eight years of age 239 but not older than fifteen years of age, and who is not otherwise 240 required by division (A), (B), or (C) of this section to be 241 secured in a child restraint system or booster seat, is being 242 transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public 243 safety vehicle as defined in section 4511.01 of the Revised Code, 244 that is required by the United States department of transportation 245 to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or 246 assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child 247 properly restrained either in accordance with the manufacturer's 248 instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor 249 vehicle safety standards or in an occupant restraining device as 250 defined in section 4513.263 of the Revised Code. 251

(D)(E) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, 253 no law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of a motor 254 vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the motor 255 vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of 256 division (C) or (D) of this section has been or is being committed 257 or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons 258 for a violation of that nature division (C) or (D) of this section 259 or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person 260 for a violation of that nature division (C) or (D) of this 261 section, and no absent another violation of law, a law enforcement 262 officer shall officer's view of the interior or visually inspect 263

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| any automobile visual inspection of a motor vehicle being operated |
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| on any street or highway <u>may not be used</u> for the sole purpose of |
| determining whether a violation of that nature division (C) or (D) |
| of this section has been or is being committed. |

 $\frac{(E)(F)}{(F)}$ The director of public safety shall adopt such rules 269 as are necessary to carry out this section. 270

(F)(G) The failure of an operator of a motor vehicle to 271 secure a child in a child restraint system, a booster seat, or in 272 an occupant restraining device as required by this section is not 273 negligence imputable to the child, is not admissible as evidence 274 in any civil action involving the rights of the child against any 275 other person allegedly liable for injuries to the child, is not to 276 be used as a basis for a criminal prosecution of the operator of 277 the motor vehicle other than a prosecution for a violation of this 278 section, and is not admissible as evidence in any criminal action 279 involving the operator of the motor vehicle other than a 280 prosecution for a violation of this section. 281

(G)(H) This section does not apply when an emergency exists 282 that threatens the life of any person operating or occupying a 283 motor vehicle and to whom this section otherwise would apply or 284 the life of any that is being used to transport a child who 285 otherwise would be required to be restrained under this section. 286 This section does not apply to a person operating a motor vehicle 287 who has an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in 288 this state under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code or a 289 chiropractor licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 290 4734. of the Revised Code that states that the child who otherwise 291 would be required to be restrained under this section has a 292 physical impairment that makes use of a child restraint system, 293 booster seat, or an occupant restraining device impossible or 294 impractical, provided that the person operating the vehicle has 295

| <u>safe</u> | ely and appropriately restrained the child in accordance with | 296 |
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| <u>any</u> | recommendations of the physician or chiropractor as noted on | 297 |
| <u>the</u> | affidavit. | 298 |
| | $\frac{(H)(I)}{(I)}$ There is hereby created in the state treasury the | 299 |

"child highway safety fund," consisting of fines imposed pursuant to division (J)(K)(1) of this section for violations of divisions (A), (B), and (C), and (D) of this section. The money in the fund shall be used by the department of health only to defray the cost of designating hospitals as pediatric trauma centers under section 3727.081 of the Revised Code and to establish and administer a child highway safety program. The purpose of the program shall be to educate the public about child restraint systems generally and booster seats and the importance of their proper use. The program also shall include a process for providing child restraint systems and booster seats to persons who meet the eligibility criteria established by the department, and a toll-free telephone number the public may utilize to obtain information about child restraint systems and booster seats, and their proper use.

(I)(J) The director of health, in accordance with Chapter

119. of the Revised Code, shall adopt any rules necessary to carry
out this section, including rules establishing the criteria a

person must meet in order to receive a child restraint system or

booster seat under the department's child restraint system highway
safety program; provided that rules relating to the verification
of pediatric trauma centers shall not be adopted under this
section.

(J)(K) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any person to carry with the person the birth certificate of a child to prove the age of the child, but the production of a valid birth certificate for a child showing that the child was not of an age to which this section applies is a defense against any ticket,

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Safety Act of 1966," 80 Stat. 719, 15 U.S.C.A. 1392.

(2) "Occupant restraining device" means a seat safety belt,

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| shoulder belt, harness, or other safety device for restraining a | 358 |
| person who is an operator of or passenger in an automobile and | 359 |
| that satisfies the minimum federal vehicle safety standards | 360 |
| established by the United States department of transportation. | 361 |
| (3) "Passenger" means any person in an automobile, other than | 362 |
| its operator, who is occupying a seating position for which an | 363 |
| occupant restraining device is provided. | 364 |
| (4) "Commercial tractor," "passenger car," and "commercial | 365 |
| car" have the same meanings as in section 4501.01 of the Revised | 366 |
| Code. | 367 |
| (5) "Vehicle" and "motor vehicle," as used in the definitions | 368 |
| of the terms set forth in division (A)(4) of this section, have | 369 |
| the same meanings as in section 4511.01 of the Revised Code. | 370 |
| (6) "Tort action" means a civil action for damages for | 371 |
| injury, death, or loss to person or property. "Tort action" | 372 |
| includes a product liability claim, as defined in section 2307.71 | 373 |
| of the Revised Code, and an asbestos claim, as defined in section | 374 |
| 2307.91 of the Revised Code, but does not include a civil action | 375 |
| for damages for breach of contract or another agreement between | 376 |
| persons. | 377 |
| (B) No person shall do any of the following: | 378 |
| (1) Operate an automobile on any street or highway unless | 379 |
| that person is wearing all of the available elements of a properly | 380 |
| adjusted occupant restraining device, or operate a school bus that | 381 |
| has an occupant restraining device installed for use in its | 382 |
| operator's seat unless that person is wearing all of the available | 383 |
| elements of the device, as properly adjusted; | 384 |
| (2) Operate an automobile on any street or highway unless | 385 |
| each passenger in the automobile who is subject to the requirement | 386 |
| set forth in division (B)(3) of this section is wearing all of the | 387 |
| available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining | 388 |

device;

- (3) Occupy, as a passenger, a seating position on the front 390 seat of an automobile being operated on any street or highway 391 unless that person is wearing all of the available elements of a 392 properly adjusted occupant restraining device; 393
- (4) Operate a taxicab on any street or highway unless all
 factory-equipped occupant restraining devices in the taxicab are
 maintained in usable form.
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- (C) Division (B)(3) of this section does not apply to a 397 person who is required by section 4511.81 of the Revised Code to 398 be secured in a child restraint device or booster seat. Division 399 (B)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who is an 400 employee of the United States postal service or of a newspaper 401 home delivery service, during any period in which the person is 402 engaged in the operation of an automobile to deliver mail or 403 newspapers to addressees. Divisions (B)(1) and (3) of this section 404 do not apply to a person who has an affidavit signed by a 405 physician licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4731. 406 407 of the Revised Code or a chiropractor licensed to practice in this state under Chapter 4734. of the Revised Code that states that the 408 person has a physical impairment that makes use of an occupant 409 restraining device impossible or impractical. 410
- (D) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no 411 law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of an automobile 412 being operated on any street or highway to stop the automobile for 413 the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of division 414 (B) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole 415 purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons for a violation 416 of that nature or causing the arrest of or commencing a 417 prosecution of a person for a violation of that nature, and no law 418 enforcement officer shall view the interior or visually inspect 419 any automobile being operated on any street or highway for the 420

| sole purpose of determining whether a violation of that nature has | 421 |
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| been or is being committed. | 422 |
| (E) All fines collected for violations of division (B) of | 423 |
| this section, or for violations of any ordinance or resolution of | 424 |
| a political subdivision that is substantively comparable to that | 425 |
| division, shall be forwarded to the treasurer of state for deposit | 426 |
| as follows: | 427 |
| (1) Eight per cent shall be deposited into the seat belt | 428 |
| education fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury, and | 429 |
| shall be used by the department of public safety to establish a | 430 |
| seat belt education program. | 431 |
| (2) Eight per cent shall be deposited into the elementary | 432 |
| school program fund, which is hereby created in the state | 433 |
| treasury, and shall be used by the department of public safety to | 434 |
| establish and administer elementary school programs that encourage | 435 |
| seat safety belt use. | 436 |
| (3) Two per cent shall be deposited into the occupational | 437 |
| licensing and regulatory fund created by section 4743.05 of the | 438 |
| Revised Code. | 439 |
| (4) Twenty-eight per cent shall be deposited into the trauma | 440 |
| and emergency medical services fund, which is hereby created in | 441 |
| the state treasury, and shall be used by the department of public | 442 |
| safety for the administration of the division of emergency medical | 443 |
| services and the state board of emergency medical services. | 444 |
| (5) Fifty-four per cent shall be deposited into the trauma | 445 |
| and emergency medical services grants fund, which is hereby | 446 |
| created in the state treasury, and shall be used by the state | 447 |
| board of emergency medical services to make grants, in accordance | 448 |
| with section 4765.07 of the Revised Code and rules the board | 449 |
| adopts under section 4765.11 of the Revised Code. | 450 |

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

failure of a person to wear all of the available elements of a 452 properly adjusted occupant restraining device in violation of 453 division (B)(1) or (3) of this section or the failure of a person 454 to ensure that each minor who is a passenger of an automobile 455 being operated by that person is wearing all of the available 456 elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device in 457 violation of division (B)(2) of this section shall not be 458 considered or used by the trier of fact in a tort action as 459 evidence of negligence or contributory negligence. But, the trier 460 of fact may determine based on evidence admitted consistent with 461 the Ohio Rules of Evidence that the failure contributed to the 462 harm alleged in the tort action and may diminish a recovery of 463 compensatory damages that represents noneconomic loss, as defined 464 in section 2307.011 of the Revised Code, in a tort action that 465 could have been recovered but for the plaintiff's failure to wear 466 all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant 467 restraining device. Evidence of that failure shall not be used as 468 a basis for a criminal prosecution of the person other than a 469 prosecution for a violation of this section; and shall not be 470 admissible as evidence in a criminal action involving the person 471 other than a prosecution for a violation of this section. 472

(2) If, at the time of an accident involving a passenger car 473 equipped with occupant restraining devices, any occupant of the 474 passenger car who sustained injury or death was not wearing an 475 available occupant restraining device, was not wearing all of the 476 available elements of such a device, or was not wearing such a 477 device as properly adjusted, then, consistent with the Rules of 478 Evidence, the fact that the occupant was not wearing the available 479 occupant restraining device, was not wearing all of the available 480 elements of such a device, or was not wearing such a device as 481 properly adjusted is admissible in evidence in relation to any 482 claim for relief in a tort action to the extent that the claim for 483 relief satisfies all of the following: 484

(a) It seeks to recover damages for injury or death to the 485 occupant. 486 (b) The defendant in question is the manufacturer, designer, 487 distributor, or seller of the passenger car. 488 (c) The claim for relief against the defendant in question is 489 that the injury or death sustained by the occupant was enhanced or 490 aggravated by some design defect in the passenger car or that the 491 passenger car was not crashworthy. 492 (G)(1) Whoever violates division (B)(1) of this section shall 493 be fined thirty dollars. 494 (2) Whoever violates division (B)(3) of this section shall be 495 fined twenty dollars. 496 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever 497 violates division (B)(4) of this section is guilty of a minor 498 misdemeanor. If the offender previously has been convicted of or 499 pleaded guilty to a violation of division (B)(4) of this section, 500 whoever violates division (B)(4) of this section is guilty of a 501 misdemeanor of the third degree. 502 Section 2. That existing sections 4507.071, 4511.093, 503 4511.81, and 4513.263 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 504 Section 3. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the 505 contrary, during the first six months after the effective date of 506 this section, no person who violates division (C) of section 507 4511.81 of the Revised Code concerning the use of booster seats, 508 as that division is amended by this act, shall be issued a ticket, 509 citation, or summons in relation to the violation or be arrested 510 for the violation. Instead, the person shall be issued a written 511 warning that states the requirements contained in division (C) of 512 section 4511.81 of the Revised Code, as amended by this act. In 513 addition, the warning shall explain that on or after a date 514

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| certain, which date shall be six months after the effective date | 515 |
| of this section, the law will allow a person to be charged with | 516 |
| and prosecuted for such a violation. | |
| Section 4. Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act, except for | 518 |
| section 4507.071 of the Revised Code, shall take effect six months | 519 |
| after the effective date of this act. Section 4507.071 of the | 520 |
| Revised Code, as amended by this act, shall take effect at the | 521 |
| earliest time permitted by law. | 522 |