

# Ohio's New Booster Seat Law – effective on 10/7/09

Parents,

There have been some changes in the Ohio Revised Code that pertain to children under 8 years old. The old law required any child that was either under 4 years old or less than 40 pounds to be in a booster seat. The new law requires children who are under 8 years old and are not at least four feet nine inches tall to be secured in a booster seat while in a motor vehicle. It also states that any child between the ages of 8 and 15 must be wearing a seatbelt while in a vehicle. An excerpt of the law is listed below. Parents are encouraged to visit the website and read this for themselves. It could save the life of one of our children. ***"When any child who is less than eight years of age and less than four feet nine inches in height, shall be properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on a booster seat that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards"***.

Website: <http://www.boostohiokids.org/>

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

**Sec. 4511.81.** (A) When any child who is in either or both of the following categories is being transported in a motor vehicle, other 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 in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards:

(1) A child who is less than four years of age; (2) A child who weighs less than forty pounds.

(B) When any child who is in either or both of the following categories is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab, that is owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of a nursery school or day-care center, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards:

(1) A child who is less than four years of age; (2) A child who weighs less than forty pounds.

(C) When any child who is less than eight years of age and less than four feet nine inches in height, who is not required by division (A) or (B) of this section to be secured in a child restraint system, is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public safety vehicle as defined in section 4511.01 of the Revised Code or a vehicle that is regulated under section 5104.011 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 but not older than fifteen years of age, and who is not otherwise required by division (A), (B), or (C) of this section to be secured in a child restraint system or booster seat, is being transported in a motor vehicle, other 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 restrained either in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards or in an occupant restraining device as defined in section 4513.263 of the Revised Code.