

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To reduce the incidence of motor vehicle-related child injuries and deaths occurring inside or outside of motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DEWINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To reduce the incidence of motor vehicle-related child injuries and deaths occurring inside or outside of motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Kids, Safe Cars
5 Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCORPORATION OF CHILD DUMMIES IN SAFETY**
7 **TESTS.**

8 (a) RULEMAKING REQUIRED.—Not later than 2
9 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
10 ministrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-

1 ministration shall conduct a rulemaking to increase utili-
2 zation of child dummies, including Hybrid-III child dum-
3 mies, in motor vehicle safety tests, including crash tests,
4 conducted by the Administration.

5 (b) CRITERIA.—In conducting the rulemaking under
6 subsection (a), the Administrator shall select motor vehicle
7 safety tests in which the inclusion of child dummies will
8 lead to—

9 (1) increased understanding of crash dynamics
10 with respect to children; and

11 (2) measurably improved child safety.

12 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
14 tation shall publish a report regarding the implementation
15 of this section.

16 **SEC. 3. CHILD SAFETY IN ROLLOVER CRASHES.**

17 (a) CONSUMER INFORMATION PROGRAM.—Not later
18 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
19 the Secretary of Transportation shall initiate and complete
20 a consumer information program relating to child safety
21 in rollover crashes. The Secretary shall make information
22 related to the program available to the public following
23 completion of the program.

24 (b) CHILD DUMMY DEVELOPMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 years after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
3 trator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-
4 ministration shall develop a biofidelic child crash test
5 dummy capable of measuring injury forces in a sim-
6 ulated rollover crash.

7 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
9 shall submit to Congress a report on progress re-
10 lated to such development.

11 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON ENHANCED VEHICLE SAFETY TECH-**
12 **NOLOGIES.**

13 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall
15 submit to Congress a report that describes, evaluates, and
16 determines the relative effectiveness of—

17 (1) devices and technologies designed to reduce
18 the incidence of injuries and deaths to children in-
19 volved outside of motor vehicles in nontraffic,
20 noncrash motor vehicle accidents, including acci-
21 dents in which motor vehicles are backed over chil-
22 dren;

23 (2) currently available and emerging tech-
24 nologies, including auto-reverse functions and child-
25 safe window switches, that are designed to prevent

1 and reduce the number of injuries and deaths to
2 children left unattended inside parked motor vehi-
3 cles, including injuries and deaths that result from
4 hyperthermia or are related to power windows or
5 power sunroofs; and

6 (3) currently available and emerging tech-
7 nologies that are designed to improve the perform-
8 ance of safety belts with respect to the safety of oc-
9 cupants aged between 4 and 8 years old.

10 **SEC. 5. COMPLETION OF RULEMAKING REGARDING POWER**
11 **WINDOWS.**

12 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

14 (1) complete the rulemaking initiated by the
15 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
16 that is ongoing on the date of the enactment of this
17 Act and relates to a requirement that window
18 switches be designed to reduce the accidental closing
19 by children of power windows; and

20 (2) issue regulations to take effect not later
21 than January 1, 2006, requiring that window
22 switches or related technologies be designed to pre-
23 vent the accidental closing by children of power win-
24 dows.

1 **SEC. 6. DATABASE ON INJURIES AND DEATHS IN NON-**
2 **TRAFFIC, NONCRASH EVENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation
4 shall establish a new database of, and collect data regard-
5 ing, injuries and deaths in nontraffic, noncrash events in-
6 volving motor vehicles. The database shall include infor-
7 mation regarding—

8 (1) the number, types, and proximate causes of
9 injuries and deaths resulting from such events;

10 (2) the characteristics of motor vehicles in-
11 volved in such events;

12 (3) the characteristics of the motor vehicle op-
13 erators and victims involved in such events; and

14 (4) the presence or absence in motor vehicles
15 involved in such events of advanced technologies de-
16 signed to prevent such injuries and deaths.

17 (b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make the
18 database available to the public.