

CHAPTER 2021-120

Senate Bill No. 252

An act relating to child care facilities; providing a short title; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; requiring certain vehicles, by a specified date, to be equipped with a reliable alarm system that meets specified criteria; requiring the Department of Children and Families to adopt by rule minimum safety standards for such systems and to maintain a list of approved alarm manufacturers and alarm systems; making technical changes; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Child Safety Alarm Act.”

Section 2. Subsection (10) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

(10) TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—

(a) Minimum standards shall include all of the following:

1. Requirements for child restraints or seat belts in vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child care homes to transport children.

2. Requirements for annual inspections of ~~such~~ the vehicles.

3. Limitations on the number of children ~~that may be transported in~~ such the vehicles.

4. Procedures to ~~ensure that avoid leaving~~ children are not inadvertently left in vehicles when transported by the facility or home; and ~~that~~ systems are in place to ensure accountability for children transported by such facilities and homes ~~the child care facility~~.

(b) By January 1, 2022, all vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child care homes to transport children must be equipped with a reliable alarm system approved by the department which prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle. The department shall adopt by rule minimum safety standards for such systems and shall maintain a list of approved alarm manufacturers and alarm systems that meet or exceed those standards.

(c) A child care facility or large family child care home is not responsible for ~~the safe transport of~~ children when they are ~~being~~ transported by a parent or guardian.

Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor June 21, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 21, 2021.