

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6256

To require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to update the motor vehicle information required to be submitted to the Administration to assist a consumer in buying a passenger motor vehicle.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2020

Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to update the motor vehicle information required to be submitted to the Administration to assist a consumer in buying a passenger motor vehicle.

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 “Five-Stars for Safe
5 Cars Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UPDATING THE 5-STAR SAFETY RATING SYSTEM.**

7 Section 32302 of title 49, United States Code, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(e) ROADMAP.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
3 the date of enactment of this subsection and every
4 year thereafter, the Secretary shall publish a clear
5 and concise report on a publicly accessible website
6 detailing efforts over the next five-year period to im-
7 prove the passenger motor vehicle information devel-
8 oped under subsection (a).

9 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
10 paragraph (1) shall include—

11 “(A) descriptions of actions that will be
12 taken to update the passenger motor vehicle in-
13 formation developed under subsection (a), in-
14 cluding the development of test procedures, test
15 devices, test fixtures, and safety performance
16 metrics;

17 “(B) key milestones, including the antici-
18 pated start of an action, completion of an ac-
19 tion, and effective date of an update; and

20 “(C) descriptions of how an update will im-
21 prove the passenger motor vehicle information
22 developed under subsection (a).

23 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing, imple-
24 menting, and updating the report required under
25 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

1 “(A) identify and prioritize safety features
2 and technologies that are practicable and for
3 which objective rating tests and evaluation cri-
4 teria exists;

5 “(B) when reasonable and in the public in-
6 terest, harmonize the passenger motor vehicle
7 information developed under subsection (a) with
8 other safety information programs, including
9 those administered internationally or by private
10 organizations, that provide comparisons of safe-
11 ty characteristics of passenger motor vehicles;

12 “(C) establish objective criteria for the se-
13 lection of safety technologies to be rated;

14 “(D) conduct annual review to evaluate ef-
15 fectiveness of the passenger motor vehicle infor-
16 mation produced under subsection (a) at im-
17 proving the safety of passenger motor vehicles;

18 “(E) provide for a reasonable period of
19 time for compliance with new or updated tests;
20 and

21 “(F) adhere to all deadlines established
22 under subsection (f).

23 “(4) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall
24 provide for a period of public comment and review
25 in developing the plan required under paragraph (1).

1 “(f) UPDATING THE 5-STAR SAFETY RATING SYS-
2 TEM.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
5 shall finalize the proceeding entitled New Car As-
6 sessment Program (80 Fed. Reg. 78521) to update
7 the passenger motor vehicle information required
8 under subsection (a).

9 “(2) CRASHWORTHINESS.—In carrying out
10 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

11 “(A) update the test procedures and de-
12 vices, including anthropomorphic test devices,
13 used in tests;

14 “(B) establish new or refine injury criteria,
15 including but not limited to brain, thoracic and
16 abdomen, neck, and lower leg injury criteria;

17 “(C) establish rear seat crashworthiness
18 tests and rating, including for seating positions
19 beyond the second row of seats;

20 “(D) establish crashworthiness tests for all
21 designated seating positions and ratings for el-
22 derly occupants;

23 “(E) establish crashworthiness tests for all
24 rear designated seating positions and ratings
25 for children; and

1 “(F) ensure that crashworthiness tests ac-
2 count for occupancy of all designated seating
3 positions, as applicable.

4 “(3) CRASH AVOIDANCE.—In carrying out para-
5 graph (1), the Secretary shall update and create, as
6 applicable, crash avoidance tests and ratings, which
7 shall include forward automatic emergency braking
8 (forward collision warning, crash imminent braking,
9 and dynamic brake support), lower beam head light
10 performance, semi-automatic headlamp beam switch-
11 ing, amber rear turn signal lamps, rear cross traffic
12 alert, lane departure warning, rear automatic emer-
13 gency braking, and blind spot detection.

14 “(4) PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.—In carrying out
15 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish tests
16 and ratings for pedestrian, bicyclist, and other vul-
17 nerable road users crashworthiness, including the
18 potential risks of injuries to the head, pelvis, upper
19 and lower leg, and crash avoidance, which shall in-
20 clude automatic emergency braking and rear auto-
21 matic emergency braking.

22 “(5) ENHANCING MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMA-
23 TION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary
24 shall create a combined overall five-star vehicle rat-
25 ing and separate five-star ratings for crash-

1 worthiness for adults (women and men), crash-
2 worthiness for elderly occupants, crashworthiness for
3 children, crash avoidance, and pedestrian and bicy-
4 cling crashworthiness and crash avoidance. The Sec-
5 retary shall ensure that the five-star ratings are
6 prominently displayed in stickers placed on motor
7 vehicles by their manufacturers and on a publicly
8 available and easily accessible website.

9 “(6) POST-CRASH SAFETY.—

10 “(A) Not later than 2 years after the date
11 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
12 complete research into the development of tests
13 for the following safety features—

14 “(i) automatic collision notification;
15 and

16 “(ii) advanced automatic collision no-
17 tification.

18 “(B) After completion of the research re-
19 quired under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
20 shall include each of the safety features in the
21 passenger motor vehicle information developed
22 under subsection (a) not later than 3 years
23 after the date of enactment of this Act unless
24 the Secretary determines that doing so will not
25 improve the safety of passenger motor vehicles.

“(C) If the Secretary determines that including one or more of the safety features in passenger motor vehicle information developed under subsection (a) will not improve the safety of passenger motor vehicles, the Secretary shall submit a report describing the reasons for not including each of the safety features in the passenger motor vehicle information developed under subsection (a) to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act. If one or more of the safety features is included in an international safety information program, the Secretary shall detail why the tests and ratings from the international safety information program, or substantially similar tests and ratings, were not adopted.

“(7) ADVANCED CRASH AVOIDANCE SYSTEMS.—

“(A) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete research into the development of tests for the following safety features—

“(i) lane keeping assistance;

1 “(ii) traffic jam assist;

2 “(iii) passive drunk driving prevention
3 system;

4 “(iv) driver distraction prevention sys-
5 tem; and

6 “(v) driver monitoring.

7 “(B) After completion of the research re-
8 quired under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
9 shall include each of the safety features in the
10 crash avoidance rating not later than 3 years
11 after the date of enactment of this Act unless
12 the Secretary determines that doing so will not
13 improve the safety of passenger motor vehicles.

14 “(C) If the Secretary determines that in-
15 cluding one or more of the safety features in
16 the crash avoidance rating required will not im-
17 prove the safety of passenger motor vehicles,
18 the Secretary shall submit a report describing
19 the reasons for not including each of the safety
20 features in the crash avoidance rating to the
21 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
22 House of Representatives and the Committee
23 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
24 the Senate not later than 3 years after the date
25 of enactment of this Act. If one or more of the

1 safety features is included in an international
2 safety information program, the Secretary shall
3 detail why the tests and ratings from the inter-
4 national safety information program, or sub-
5 stantially similar tests and ratings, were not
6 adopted.

7 “(8) CONTINUOUS UPDATES.—Not later than 3
8 years after completing the proceeding entitled New
9 Car Assessment Program (80 Fed. Reg. 78521) re-
10 quired under paragraph (1) and every 3 years there-
11 after, the Secretary shall update the passenger
12 motor vehicle information under subsection (a) to
13 expand consumer access to vehicles with improved
14 safety in accordance with the roadmap required
15 under subsection (e).

16 “(9) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Should the
17 Secretary fail to meet a deadline set forth in this
18 subsection, the Secretary shall complete and submit
19 a report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce
20 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
21 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
22 Senate within 1 month of such deadline, providing
23 an explanation for why the deadline was not met

- 1 and a detailed plan and projected timeline for com-
- 2 pleting the requirements of this subsection.”.

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