

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2691

To reauthorize and improve the operations of the National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 22, 1997

Mr. TAUZIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Commerce

A BILL

To reauthorize and improve the operations of the National
Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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 “National Highway
5 Traffic Safety Administration Reauthorization Act of
6 1997”.

7 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 (a) MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACTIVITIES.—Section
9 30104 of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read
10 as follows:

1 **“§ 30104. Authorization of appropriations**

2 “There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary \$81,200,000 for the National Highway Traffic
4 Safety Administration to carry out this part in each fiscal
5 year beginning in fiscal year 1999 and ending in fiscal
6 year 2001.”.

7 (b) MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION ACTIVITIES.—
8 Section 32102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 **“§ 32102. Authorization of appropriations**

11 “There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
12 retary \$6,200,000 for the National Highway Traffic Safe-
13 ty Administration to carry out this part in each fiscal year
14 beginning in fiscal year 1999 and ending in fiscal year
15 2001.”.

16 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.**

17 Subchapter I of chapter 301 of title 49, United States
18 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 **“§ 30105. Restriction on lobbying activities**

20 “No funds appropriated to the Secretary pursuant to
21 section 30104 or 32102 may be available for any activity
22 specifically designed to advocate or oppose the adoption
23 of any specific legislative proposal pending before any
24 State or local legislature.”.

1 **SEC. 4. STANDARDS.**

2 (a) RISK DISCLOSURE.—Section 30111 of title 49,
3 United States Code, is amended by redesignating sub-
4 sections (d) and (e) as subsections (f) and (g), respec-
5 tively, and by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

6 “(d) EFFECTIVE DISCLOSURE OF RELATIVE RISKS
7 AND BENEFITS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—When prescribing or revis-
9 ing a motor vehicle safety standard under this chap-
10 ter, the Secretary shall, to the extent relevant and
11 practicable, state the relative reasonable risks and
12 benefits to motor vehicle occupants and operators of
13 the provisions of such standard, based upon infor-
14 mation contained in the record of the rulemaking
15 and received by public comment, in a manner which
16 is scientifically objective and relies upon, to the ex-
17 tent available and practicable, scientific findings.

18 “(2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall, with-
19 in 60 days of the date of the enactment of this sub-
20 section, commence a rulemaking to consider methods
21 of making information developed under paragraph
22 (1) available to consumers in a clear and easily un-
23 derstandable format, including use of the Internet
24 and public libraries. The Secretary may not require
25 any manufacturer or dealer to provide such informa-
26 tion.”.

1 (b) OCCUPANT PROTECTION PREFERENCES.—Sec-
2 tion 30111 of title 49, United States Code, as amended
3 by subsection (a), is amended by inserting after subsection
4 (d) the following:

5 “(e) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO OCCU-
6 PANT PROTECTION.—When prescribing or revising a
7 motor vehicle safety standard under this section or section
8 30127 relating to the protection of motor vehicle occu-
9 pants under this chapter, the Secretary shall, to the extent
10 relevant and practicable, design such standard to protect
11 improperly restrained and positioned occupants only to the
12 extent that such a design would not substantially increase
13 the risk of injury to properly restrained and positioned oc-
14 cupants.”.

15 **SEC. 5. ODOMETERS.**

16 (a) TRANSFERS OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES.—Sec-
17 tion 32705(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

19 “(4)(A) This subsection shall apply to all transfers
20 of motor vehicles (unless otherwise exempted by the Sec-
21 retary by regulation), except in the case of transfers of
22 new motor vehicles from a vehicle manufacturer jointly to
23 a dealer and a person engaged in the business of renting
24 or leasing vehicles for a period of 30 days or less.

1 “(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term
2 ‘new motor vehicle’ means any motor vehicle driven with
3 no more than the limited use necessary in moving, trans-
4 porting, or road testing such vehicle prior to delivery from
5 the vehicle manufacturer to a dealer, but in no event shall
6 the odometer reading of such vehicle exceed 300 miles.”.

7 (b) EXEMPTED VEHICLES.—Section 32705(a) of title
8 49, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a),
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
10 graph:

11 “(5) The Secretary may exempt such classes or cat-
12 egories of vehicles as the Secretary deems appropriate
13 from these requirements. Until such time as the Secretary
14 amends or modifies the regulations set forth in 49 CFR
15 580.6, such regulations shall have full force and effect.”.

16 **SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION.**

17 Subchapter III of chapter 301 of title 49, United
18 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-
19 ing:

20 **“§ 30148. International motor vehicle safety outreach**

21 “(a) ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary is authorized, in
22 consultation with the Secretaries of State and Commerce
23 where appropriate, to engage in activities that improve
24 worldwide motor vehicle safety through appropriate activi-
25 ties. Such activities may include—

1 “(1) promoting the adoption of international
2 and national vehicle standards that are harmonized
3 with, functionally equivalent to, or compatible with
4 United States vehicle standards;

5 “(2) participating in efforts to foster an inter-
6 national acceptance of globally harmonized or func-
7 tionally equivalent or compatible motor vehicle regu-
8 lations and standards to otherwise improve inter-
9 national highway and motor vehicle safety;

10 “(3) promoting international cooperative pro-
11 grams for conducting research, development, dem-
12 onstration projects, training, and other forms of
13 technology transfer and exchange, including safety
14 conferences, seminars, and expositions to enhance
15 international motor vehicle safety; and

16 “(4) providing technical assistance to other
17 countries relating to their adoption of United States
18 vehicle regulations or standards functionally equiva-
19 lent to United States vehicle standards.

20 “(b) COOPERATION.—The Secretary may carry out
21 the authority granted by this section, in cooperation with
22 appropriate United States Government agencies, any
23 State or local agency, and any authority, association, insti-
24 tution, corporation (profit or nonprofit), foreign govern-

1 ment, multinational institution, or any other organization
2 or person.

3 “(c) CONSIDERATION.—When engaging in activities
4 to improve worldwide motor vehicle safety, the Secretary
5 shall ensure that these activities maintain or improve the
6 level of safety of motor vehicles and motor vehicle equip-
7 ment sold in the United States.”.

8 **SEC. 7. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS.**

9 (a) NOTIFICATION OF DEFECTS AND NONCOMPLI-
10 ANCE.—Section 30118(d) of title 49, United States Code,
11 is amended by striking the second sentence.

12 (b) REMEDIES FOR DEFECTS AND NONCOMPLI-
13 ANCE.—Section 30120(i)(1) of title 49, United States
14 Code, is amended by inserting “(including retailers of
15 motor vehicle equipment)” after “dealer” the first time
16 it appears.

17 (c) TIRES.—Section 30123 of title 49, United States
18 Code, is amended by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c)
19 and by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f), as sub-
20 sections (a), (b), and (c), respectively.

21 (d) AUTOMATIC OCCUPANT CRASH PROTECTION AND
22 SEAT BELT USE.—Section 30127(g)(1) of title 49, United
23 States Code, is amended by striking “every 6 months” and
24 inserting “annually”.

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