

WASHINGTON STATE BOOSTER SEAT COALITION

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Safety Restraint Coalition

Washington State Booster Seat Law Anton Skeen Act

Washington State has a new child passenger safety law, the Anton Skeen Act. This law is the first one passed in the United States requiring the use of booster seats for older children. Belt-positioning booster seats raise a child up so that a lap and shoulder belt system will fit properly. A proper seat belt fit is needed to prevent child injuries and deaths during motor vehicle crashes. **Doctors and safety experts recommend that all 4- to 8-year-old children sit in booster seats until the lap and shoulder belts fit correctly. Typically seat belts fit children when they are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall, about 80 pounds and around 8 years old.**

Washington's new child passenger safety law, which went into effect on **July 1, 2002**, includes the following changes:

- Infants are required to ride in rear-facing infant seats until age one or until they reach 20 pounds.
- Children age one to four or between 20-40 pounds are required to ride in forward-facing child car seats.
- **Children between 4-6 years old or 40-60 pounds are required to use belt-positioning booster seats with lap and shoulder belts. You must use booster seats with lap and shoulder belts.**
- Children 6 years of age and older must use seat belts or a booster seat. It is strongly recommended to use a booster seat with the lap and shoulder belt until the seat belt fits correctly. Please visit our Web site at www.boosterseat.org for more information on proper seat belt fit for children, or call 1-800-BUCK-L-UP.

NOTE: Washington law requires that children and adults be properly buckled up. If you are not properly buckled up for your size, you can be given a ticket. As of July 27, 2003, tickets cost \$101.00 for each improperly buckled passenger in a vehicle.

If your car only has lap belts in the back seat, you are not required to use booster seats. To help improve your child's safety in the car if you only have lap belts, there are different products you can buy. For more information call the Safety Restraint Coalition at (425) 828-8975, or visit our Web site at www.boosterseat.org.