

ATTENTION PARENTS NEW CAR SEAT LAW IN VIRGINIA EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019

BACKGROUND ON VIRGINIA'S NEW CAR SEAT LAWS

The AAP and other organizations have stated that rear facing is the safest and children should remain rear facing in their car seat until at least age 2. One study shows rear facing between 12-24 months is 532% safer than forward facing. Finally, Virginia has passed a law making sure that more children will remain rear facing until at least two years old. On March 6, 2018, both the House and Senate in Virginia passed bill HB-708. The bill is now headed to Governor Northam's desk, where he is expected to sign the bill into law. If signed, it will go into effect come July 1, 2019.

What the new law says – Section 1A – Any person who drives on the highways of Virginia any motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, shall ensure that any child, up to age eight, whom he transports therein is provided with and properly secured in a child restraint device of a type which meets the standards adopted by the United States Department of Transportation.

Such child restraint device shall not be forward-facing until at least the child reaches two years of age or the child reaches the minimum weight limit for a forward-facing child restraint device as prescribed by the manufacturer of the device. Further, child restraint devices shall be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.

****PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU SHOULD BE STRIVING FOR MAXIMUMS, NOT MINIMUMS. LEAVE YOUR CHILD REARFACING AND IN SECURED CAR SEATS AS LONG AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.**

- A violation of this section may be charged on the uniform traffic summons form.
- Nothing in this law applies to taxicabs, school buses, executive sedans, or limousines.
- If you are traveling to the state of Virginia you are to adhere to these laws.
- A \$50 fine would be assessed if you are in violation of the new law.

For more information: <https://www.advancingchildrenshealth.com/virginias-new-car-seat-law-what-you-need-to-know/>