

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5506

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate a Federal motor vehicle safety standard to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring during low-speed incidents involving motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 12, 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate a Federal motor vehicle safety standard to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring during low-speed incidents involving motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

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 “Standards To Prevent
5 Frontovers Act of 2024” or the “STOP Frontovers Act
6 of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) BACKOVER.—The term “backover” means a
4 low-speed incident where a non-occupant of a motor
5 vehicle is struck by the motor vehicle moving in re-
6 verse.

7 (2) MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term “motor vehi-
8 cle” has the meaning given the term in section
9 30102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

10 (3) PERCEPTION ZONE.—The term “perception
11 zone” means the area surrounding a motor vehicle
12 within which accurate object detection is necessary
13 to ensure safety.

14 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Transportation.

16 **SEC. 3. RULEMAKING TO MINIMIZE SAFETY RISKS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate
19 a rulemaking to promulgate a Federal motor vehicle safety
20 standard under section 30111 of title 49, United States
21 Code, establishing performance requirements that reduce
22 death and injury resulting from frontovers and other low-
23 speed incidents.

24 (b) REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—

1 (1) SCOPE.—The performance requirements of
2 the motor vehicle safety standard described in sub-
3 section (a) shall—

4 (A) minimize safety risks of frontovers and
5 other low-speed incidents;

6 (B) establish a perception zone; and

7 (C) require—

8 (i) at a minimum, the detection of, in
9 the perception zone of the motor vehicle—

10 (I) a motor vehicle;

11 (II) a pedestrian, including tod-
12 dlers and small children;

13 (III) a bicyclist;

14 (IV) a vulnerable road user (as
15 defined in section 148(a) of title 23,
16 United States Code);

17 (V) a wheelchair or assistive de-
18 vice user;

19 (VI) a micromobility or motor-
20 cycle rider; and

21 (VII) any other individual, equip-
22 ment, vehicle, or animal, as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary;

24 (ii) a driver notification system that
25 enables the driver of the motor vehicle to

effectively respond to objects described in subclauses (I) through (VII) of clause (i) to prevent and reduce the severity of frontovers and other low-speed incidents;

(iii) an active intervention system that enables the motor vehicle to effectively respond to objects described in subclauses (I) through (VII) of clause (i) to prevent and reduce the severity of frontovers and other low-speed incidents; and

(iv) a distinct auditory and visual alert, which may be combined with a haptic alert, any time the driver notification system described under clause (ii) or the active intervention system described under clause (iii) engages in a way that warrants a driver or motor vehicle response.

(2) DEFINITION.—The motor vehicle safety standard described in subsection (a) shall define “frontover”.

(c) TIMELINE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the rulemaking is initiated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall promulgate the

1 final motor vehicle safety standard described in that
2 subsection.

3 (2) FULL COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 3
4 years after the date on which the final motor vehicle
5 safety standard is promulgated under paragraph (1),
6 the Secretary shall require full compliance with that
7 final motor vehicle safety standard.

8 (3) PHASE-IN PERIOD.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may es-
10 tablish a phase-in period for compliance with
11 the motor vehicle safety standard promulgated
12 under paragraph (1).

13 (B) REQUIREMENT.—A phase-in period es-
14 tablished under subparagraph (A) shall only be
15 for a period of time that allows for full compli-
16 ance with the motor vehicle safety standard in
17 accordance with paragraph (2).

18 (C) PHASE-IN PRIORITIES.—

19 (i) IN GENERAL.—In establishing a
20 phase-in period under subparagraph (A),
21 the Secretary shall consider whether to re-
22 quire the phase-in according to different
23 types of motor vehicles based on data dem-
24 onstrating the frequency by which various
25 types of motor vehicles have been involved

1 in frontovers and other low-speed incidents
2 resulting in injury or death.

3 (ii) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—If the
4 Secretary determines under clause (i) that
5 any type of motor vehicle should be given
6 priority for the phase-in period established
7 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
8 shall promulgate regulations that specify—

9 (I) the 1 or more types of motor
10 vehicles that shall be phased-in first;
11 and

12 (II) the percentages by which
13 those motor vehicles shall be phased-
14 in.

15 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years
16 after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days
17 thereafter, if the final motor vehicle safety standard de-
18 scribed in subsection (a) has not been promulgated in ac-
19 cordance with the requirements of this section, the Sec-
20 retary shall submit to Congress a report on—

21 (1) the reasons for the delay in promulgating
22 that motor vehicle safety standard; and

23 (2) the steps being taken by the Secretary—

24 (A) to address those reasons; and

1 (B) to promulgate that motor vehicle safe-
2 ty standard.

3 **SEC. 4. UPDATES TO THE NON-TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE**
4 **SYSTEM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall include
7 an element for a frontover and an element for a backover
8 in the data maintained, and the summary reports pub-
9 lished from that data, under the Non-Traffic Surveillance
10 (NTS) System of the National Highway Traffic Safety
11 Administration.

12 (b) OTHER REPORTING CONSIDERATIONS.—In addi-
13 tion to the requirement under subsection (a), the Sec-
14 retary may consider other mechanisms to help inform re-
15 porting relating to frontovers and backovers, including
16 changes to State crash report data requirements or other
17 reporting systems.

18 (c) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary
19 shall notify Congress on completion of the requirement
20 under subsection (a).

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