



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 111
[2011 Senate Bill 208]

**Motor Vehicle Child Safety
Restraint Systems**

2011 Wisconsin Act 111 relates to the use of child restraint systems in motor vehicles.

Wisconsin law requires a child to be properly restrained in a specific type of car seat depending on the particular age and size of the child. If a child is:

- Less than one year old, or weighs less than 20 pounds, the child must be placed in a rear-facing car seat.
- Between one and four years old, or weighs between 20 and 40 pounds, the child must be placed in a forward-facing car seat.
- Between four and eight years old, weighs between 40 and 80 pounds, and is 57 inches or less in height, the child must be placed in a booster seat.

Act 111 revises the law to explicitly allow a child to be placed in a more protective car seat, for the preceding younger age and smaller size category. For example, a child who has reached one year of age, and is over 20 pounds, may either be placed in a forward-facing car seat, or in a rear-facing car seat.

Effective date: Act 111 takes effect December 21, 2011.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.