

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6256

To require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to update the motor vehicle information required to be submitted to the Administration to assist a consumer in buying a passenger motor vehicle.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2020

Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to update the motor vehicle information required to be submitted to the Administration to assist a consumer in buying a passenger motor vehicle.

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 “Five-Stars for Safe  
5 Cars Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UPDATING THE 5-STAR SAFETY RATING SYSTEM.**

7 Section 32302 of title 49, United States Code, is  
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 “(e) ROADMAP.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
3 the date of enactment of this subsection and every  
4 year thereafter, the Secretary shall publish a clear  
5 and concise report on a publicly accessible website  
6 detailing efforts over the next five-year period to im-  
7 prove the passenger motor vehicle information devel-  
8 oped under subsection (a).

9 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under  
10 paragraph (1) shall include—

11 “(A) descriptions of actions that will be  
12 taken to update the passenger motor vehicle in-  
13 formation developed under subsection (a), in-  
14 cluding the development of test procedures, test  
15 devices, test fixtures, and safety performance  
16 metrics;

17 “(B) key milestones, including the antici-  
18 pated start of an action, completion of an ac-  
19 tion, and effective date of an update; and

20 “(C) descriptions of how an update will im-  
21 prove the passenger motor vehicle information  
22 developed under subsection (a).

23 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In developing, imple-  
24 menting, and updating the report required under  
25 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

1           “(A) identify and prioritize safety features  
2           and technologies that are practicable and for  
3           which objective rating tests and evaluation cri-  
4           teria exists;

5           “(B) when reasonable and in the public in-  
6           terest, harmonize the passenger motor vehicle  
7           information developed under subsection (a) with  
8           other safety information programs, including  
9           those administered internationally or by private  
10          organizations, that provide comparisons of safe-  
11          ty characteristics of passenger motor vehicles;

12          “(C) establish objective criteria for the se-  
13          lection of safety technologies to be rated;

14          “(D) conduct annual review to evaluate ef-  
15          fectiveness of the passenger motor vehicle infor-  
16          mation produced under subsection (a) at im-  
17          proving the safety of passenger motor vehicles;

18          “(E) provide for a reasonable period of  
19          time for compliance with new or updated tests;  
20          and

21          “(F) adhere to all deadlines established  
22          under subsection (f).

23          “(4) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall  
24          provide for a period of public comment and review  
25          in developing the plan required under paragraph (1).

1       “(f) UPDATING THE 5-STAR SAFETY RATING SYS-  
2   TEM.—

3               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
4       the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
5       shall finalize the proceeding entitled New Car As-  
6       sessment Program (80 Fed. Reg. 78521) to update  
7       the passenger motor vehicle information required  
8       under subsection (a).

9               “(2) CRASHWORTHINESS.—In carrying out  
10      paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

11              “(A) update the test procedures and de-  
12      vices, including anthropomorphic test devices,  
13      used in tests;

14              “(B) establish new or refine injury criteria,  
15      including but not limited to brain, thoracic and  
16      abdomen, neck, and lower leg injury criteria;

17              “(C) establish rear seat crashworthiness  
18      tests and rating, including for seating positions  
19      beyond the second row of seats;

20              “(D) establish crashworthiness tests for all  
21      designated seating positions and ratings for el-  
22      derly occupants;

23              “(E) establish crashworthiness tests for all  
24      rear designated seating positions and ratings  
25      for children; and

1           “(F) ensure that crashworthiness tests ac-  
2           count for occupancy of all designated seating  
3           positions, as applicable.

4           “(3) CRASH AVOIDANCE.—In carrying out para-  
5           graph (1), the Secretary shall update and create, as  
6           applicable, crash avoidance tests and ratings, which  
7           shall include forward automatic emergency braking  
8           (forward collision warning, crash imminent braking,  
9           and dynamic brake support), lower beam head light  
10          performance, semi-automatic headlamp beam switch-  
11          ing, amber rear turn signal lamps, rear cross traffic  
12          alert, lane departure warning, rear automatic emer-  
13          gency braking, and blind spot detection.

14          “(4) PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.—In carrying out  
15          paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish tests  
16          and ratings for pedestrian, bicyclist, and other vul-  
17          nerable road users crashworthiness, including the  
18          potential risks of injuries to the head, pelvis, upper  
19          and lower leg, and crash avoidance, which shall in-  
20          clude automatic emergency braking and rear auto-  
21          matic emergency braking.

22          “(5) ENHANCING MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMA-  
23          TION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary  
24          shall create a combined overall five-star vehicle rat-  
25          ing and separate five-star ratings for crash-

1       worthiness for adults (women and men), crash-  
2       worthiness for elderly occupants, crashworthiness for  
3       children, crash avoidance, and pedestrian and bicy-  
4       cling crashworthiness and crash avoidance. The Sec-  
5       retary shall ensure that the five-star ratings are  
6       prominently displayed in stickers placed on motor  
7       vehicles by their manufacturers and on a publicly  
8       available and easily accessible website.

9               “(6) POST-CRASH SAFETY.—

10              “(A) Not later than 2 years after the date  
11              of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
12              complete research into the development of tests  
13              for the following safety features—

14                      “(i) automatic collision notification;

15                      and

16                      “(ii) advanced automatic collision no-  
17                      tification.

18              “(B) After completion of the research re-  
19              quired under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
20              shall include each of the safety features in the  
21              passenger motor vehicle information developed  
22              under subsection (a) not later than 3 years  
23              after the date of enactment of this Act unless  
24              the Secretary determines that doing so will not  
25              improve the safety of passenger motor vehicles.

“(C) If the Secretary determines that including one or more of the safety features in passenger motor vehicle information developed under subsection (a) will not improve the safety of passenger motor vehicles, the Secretary shall submit a report describing the reasons for not including each of the safety features in the passenger motor vehicle information developed under subsection (a) to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act. If one or more of the safety features is included in an international safety information program, the Secretary shall detail why the tests and ratings from the international safety information program, or substantially similar tests and ratings, were not adopted.

“(7) ADVANCED CRASH AVOIDANCE SYSTEMS.—

“(A) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete research into the development of tests for the following safety features—

“(i) lane keeping assistance;

1 “(ii) traffic jam assist;

2 “(iii) passive drunk driving prevention  
3 system;

4 “(iv) driver distraction prevention sys-  
5 tem; and

6 “(v) driver monitoring.

7 “(B) After completion of the research re-  
8 quired under subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
9 shall include each of the safety features in the  
10 crash avoidance rating not later than 3 years  
11 after the date of enactment of this Act unless  
12 the Secretary determines that doing so will not  
13 improve the safety of passenger motor vehicles.

14 “(C) If the Secretary determines that in-  
15 cluding one or more of the safety features in  
16 the crash avoidance rating required will not im-  
17 prove the safety of passenger motor vehicles,  
18 the Secretary shall submit a report describing  
19 the reasons for not including each of the safety  
20 features in the crash avoidance rating to the  
21 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the  
22 House of Representatives and the Committee  
23 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of  
24 the Senate not later than 3 years after the date  
25 of enactment of this Act. If one or more of the



1 safety features is included in an international  
2 safety information program, the Secretary shall  
3 detail why the tests and ratings from the inter-  
4 national safety information program, or sub-  
5 stantially similar tests and ratings, were not  
6 adopted.

7 “(8) CONTINUOUS UPDATES.—Not later than 3  
8 years after completing the proceeding entitled New  
9 Car Assessment Program (80 Fed. Reg. 78521) re-  
10 quired under paragraph (1) and every 3 years there-  
11 after, the Secretary shall update the passenger  
12 motor vehicle information under subsection (a) to  
13 expand consumer access to vehicles with improved  
14 safety in accordance with the roadmap required  
15 under subsection (e).

16 “(9) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Should the  
17 Secretary fail to meet a deadline set forth in this  
18 subsection, the Secretary shall complete and submit  
19 a report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce  
20 of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
21 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the  
22 Senate within 1 month of such deadline, providing  
23 an explanation for why the deadline was not met

- 1 and a detailed plan and projected timeline for com-
- 2 pleting the requirements of this subsection.”.

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