

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4708

To establish safety standards for certain limousines, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 16, 2019

Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. DELGADO, and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish safety standards for certain limousines, 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 “Safety, Accountability,
5 and Federal Enforcement of Limos Act of 2019” or the
6 “SAFE Limos Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) **CERTIFIED VEHICLE.**—The term “certified
10 vehicle” means a motor vehicle that has been cer-
11 tified in accordance with section 567.4 or 567.5 of

1 title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to meet all ap-
2 plicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

3 (2) INCOMPLETE VEHICLE.—The term “incom-
4 plete vehicle” has the meaning given such term in
5 section 567.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
6 tions.

7 (3) STRETCH LIMOUSINE.—The term “stretch
8 limousine” means a new or used passenger motor ve-
9 hicle that has been altered in a manner that in-
10 creases the overall wheelbase of the vehicle, exceed-
11 ing the original equipment manufacturer’s wheelbase
12 dimension for the base model and year of the vehi-
13 cle, in any amount sufficient to accommodate addi-
14 tional passengers with a seating capacity of not
15 fewer than 9 passengers including the driver.

16 (4) STRETCH LIMOUSINE ALTERER.—The term
17 “stretch limousine alterer” means a person who al-
18 ters by addition, substitution, or removal of compo-
19 nents (other than readily attachable components) a
20 certified passenger motor vehicle before or after the
21 first purchase of the vehicle to produce a stretch
22 limousine.

23 (5) STRETCH LIMOUSINE OPERATOR.—The
24 term “stretch limousine operator” means a person

1 who owns or leases and operates a stretch limousine
2 in interstate commerce.

3 (6) PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term
4 “passenger motor vehicle” has the meaning given
5 that term in section 32101 of title 49, United States
6 Code.

7 (7) SAFETY BELT.—The term “safety belt”
8 means an occupant restraint system consisting of in-
9 tegrated lap shoulder belts.

10 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Transportation.

12 **SEC. 3. STRETCH LIMOUSINE STANDARDS.**

13 (a) SAFETY BELT STANDARDS FOR STRETCH LIM-
14 OUSINES.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe a final rule
16 amending Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Num-
17 bers 208 to require safety belts to be installed in stretch
18 limousines with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than
19 8,500 pounds at each designated seating position, includ-
20 ing on side-facing seats.

21 (b) SEATING SYSTEM STANDARDS FOR STRETCH
22 LIMOUSINES.—Not later than 2 years after the date of
23 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe a final
24 rule amending Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard
25 Number 207 to require stretch limousines to meet stand-

1 ards for seats (including side-facing seats), attachment as-
2 semblies, and installation to minimize the possibility of
3 their failure by forces acting on them as a result of vehicle
4 impact.

5 (c) REPORT ON RETROFIT ASSESSMENT FOR
6 STRETCH LIMOUSINES.—Not later than 2 years after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
8 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
9 of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
10 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that
11 assesses the feasibility, benefits, and costs with respect to
12 the application of any requirement established under sub-
13 section (a) or (b) to a stretch limousine altered before the
14 date on which the requirement applies to a new stretch
15 limousine.

16 (d) SAFETY STANDARDS FOR ALTERING USED VEHI-
17 CLES INTO STRETCH LIMOUSINES.—Not later than 1 year
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
19 prescribe a final rule revising the regulations under section
20 567.7 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to require
21 a stretch limousine alterer to comply with the require-
22 ments for persons who alter certified vehicles.

1 **SEC. 4. STRETCH LIMOUSINE COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL**
2 **SAFETY STANDARDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 301 of subtitle VI of title
4 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-
5 tion 30128 the following new section:

6 **“§ 30129. Stretch Limousine compliance with Federal**
7 **safety standards**

8 “(a) GUIDELINES, BEST PRACTICES, AND REC-
9 OMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date
10 of enactment of this section, and not less than every 4
11 years thereafter, the Secretary shall develop and issue
12 guidelines, best practices, and recommendations to assist
13 a stretch limousine alterer to develop and administer the
14 vehicle modifier plan required under subsection (c).

15 “(b) PROCESS AND ANALYSIS.—

16 “(1) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 2
17 years after the date of enactment of this section,
18 and as necessary thereafter, the Secretary shall pub-
19 lish a notice in the Federal Register that describes
20 the process and analysis used for approving or deny-
21 ing a vehicle modifier plan submitted by a stretch
22 limousine alterer.

23 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The notice required under
24 paragraph (1) shall include—

1 “(A) a description of the safety elements
2 described in subsection (c) in a vehicle modifier
3 plan; and

4 “(B) a description of the process and cri-
5 terion that the Secretary will use for deter-
6 mining whether a vehicle modifier plan ensures
7 that a stretch limousine meets applicable Fed-
8 eral motor vehicle safety standards.

9 “(c) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 2 years after
10 the Secretary has released the notice required by sub-
11 section (b), a new stretch limousine may not be offered
12 for sale, lease, or rent, introduced or delivered for intro-
13 duction in interstate commerce, or imported into the
14 United States unless the stretch limousine alterer has de-
15 veloped, and the Secretary has approved, a vehicle modi-
16 fier plan. A vehicle modifier plan includes the following
17 safety elements:

18 “(1) Design, quality control, manufacturing,
19 and training practices adopted by a stretch lim-
20 ousine alterer to ensure that a stretch limousine
21 complies with Federal motor vehicle safety stand-
22 ards.

23 “(2) Customer support guidelines, including in-
24 structions for stretch limousine occupants to wear
25 seatbelts and stretch limousine operators to notify

1 occupants of the date and results of the most recent
2 inspection of the stretch limousine.

3 “(3) Any other safety elements that the Sec-
4 retary determines to be necessary.

5 “(d) VEHICLE MODIFIER PLAN.—

6 “(1) APPLICATION.—A stretch limousine alterer
7 shall submit to the Secretary an application for ap-
8 proval of a vehicle modifier plan in such a form, at
9 such a time, and containing the information required
10 to be included in the notice published pursuant to
11 subsection (b). A vehicle modifier plan required
12 under subsection (a) may be approved for not more
13 than 4 years after the date on which the plan is ap-
14 proved.

15 “(2) REVIEW.—The Secretary may approve a
16 vehicle modifier plan submitted under paragraph (1)
17 on a finding that the plan ensures that a stretch
18 limousine will meet Federal motor vehicle safety
19 standards.

20 “(3) TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF APPLICA-
21 TIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or reject a ve-
22 hicle modifier plan not later than 1 year after receiv-
23 ing an application from a stretch limousine alterer.

24 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) INCOMPLETE VEHICLE.—The term ‘incom-
2 plete vehicle’ has the meaning given such term in
3 section 567.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
4 tions.

5 “(2) STRETCH LIMOUSINE.—The term ‘stretch
6 limousine’ means a new or used passenger motor ve-
7 hicle that has been altered in a manner that in-
8 creases the overall wheelbase of the vehicle, exceed-
9 ing the original equipment manufacturer’s wheelbase
10 dimension for the base model and year of the vehi-
11 cle, in any amount sufficient to accommodate addi-
12 tional passengers with a seating capacity of not
13 fewer than 9 passengers including the driver.

14 “(3) STRETCH LIMOUSINE ALTERER.—The
15 term ‘stretch limousine alterer’ means a person who
16 alters by addition, substitution, or removal of com-
17 ponents (other than readily attachable components)
18 an incomplete vehicle or a certified passenger motor
19 vehicle before or after the first purchase of the vehi-
20 cle to produce a stretch limousine.

21 “(4) PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term
22 ‘passenger motor vehicle’ has the meaning given that
23 term in section 32101.”.

1 (b) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 30165(a)(1) of title 49,
2 United States Code, is amended by inserting “30129,”
3 after “30127.”

4 **SEC. 5. STRETCH LIMOUSINE CRASHWORTHINESS.**

5 (a) RESEARCH.—Not later than 4 years after the
6 date of enactment, the Secretary shall complete research
7 into side impact protection, roof crush resistance, and air
8 bag systems for the protection of occupants in stretch lim-
9 ousines given alternative seating positions or interior con-
10 figurations, including perimeter seating arrangements.

11 (b) RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the
12 research required under subsection (a), the Secretary
13 shall—

14 (1) develop one or more tests to evaluate side
15 impact protection, roof crush resistance, and air bag
16 systems of stretch limousines;

17 (2) determine metrics that would be most effec-
18 tive at evaluating the side impact protection, roof
19 crush resistance, and air bag systems of stretch lim-
20 ousines; and

21 (3) determine criteria to assure the stretch lim-
22 ousines are protecting occupants in any alternative
23 seating positions or interior configurations.

24 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date
25 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a re-

1 port describing the findings of the research required under
2 this section to the Committee on Energy and Commerce
3 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
4 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

5 (d) VEHICLE MODIFIER PLANS.—The Secretary shall
6 incorporate the findings of the research conducted under
7 this section into the guidelines required under section
8 30129(a) of title 49 and the process and analysis required
9 under section 30129(b) of title 49, United States Code,
10 as added by section 4(a).

11 (e) CRASHWORTHINESS STANDARDS.—The Secretary
12 shall issue final motor vehicle safety standards for side
13 impact protection, roof crush resistance, and air bag sys-
14 tems for stretch limousines if the Secretary determines
15 that such standards meet the requirements and consider-
16 ations set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of section 30111
17 of title 49, United States Code.

18 **SEC. 6. STRETCH LIMOUSINE EVACUATION.**

19 (a) RESEARCH.—Not later than 2 years after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
21 tation shall complete research into safety features and
22 standards that aid egress and regress in the event that
23 one exit in the passenger compartment of a stretch lim-
24 ousine is blocked.

1 (b) STANDARDS.—Not later than 3 years after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue
3 stretch limousine evacuation standards based on the re-
4 sults of the Secretary’s research.

5 **SEC. 7. STRETCH LIMOUSINE INSPECTION DISCLOSURE.**

6 (a) STRETCH LIMOUSINE INSPECTION DISCLO-
7 SURE.—A stretch limousine operator introducing a stretch
8 limousine into interstate commerce may not deploy for
9 commercial use a stretch limousine unless the stretch lim-
10 ousine operator has prominently disclosed in a clear and
11 conspicuous notice, including on its website to the extent
12 the stretch limousine operator uses a website, that in-
13 cludes—

14 (1) the date of the most recent inspection of the
15 stretch limousine required under State or Federal
16 law;

17 (2) the results of the inspection; and

18 (3) any corrective action taken by the stretch
19 limousine operator to ensure the stretch limousine
20 passed inspection.

21 (b) FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ENFORCE-
22 MENT.—A violation of subsection (a) shall be treated as
23 a an unfair or deceptive act or practice within the meaning
24 of section 5(a)(1) of the Federal Trade Commission Act
25 (15 U.S.C. 45(a)(1)). The Federal Trade Commission

1 shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same
2 means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties
3 as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Fed-
4 eral Trade Commission Act were incorporated into and
5 made a part of this Act.

6 (c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
7 shall be construed to limit the authority of the Federal
8 Trade commission under any other provision of law.

9 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
10 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 8. EVENT DATA RECORDERS FOR STRETCH LIM-**
12 **OUSINES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
15 through the Administrator of the National Highway Traf-
16 fic Safety Administration, shall issue a final rule requiring
17 the use of event data recorders for stretch limousines.

18 (b) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—Any standard promul-
19 gated under subsection (a) pertaining to event data re-
20 corder information shall comply with the collection and
21 sharing requirements under the FAST Act (Public Law
22 114–94).

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