

July 9, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 9291 - National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act Amendments. This bill authorizes appropriations totalling \$133 million for the transition quarter and fiscal years 1977-1978 to carry out activities under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act; to delay the implementation of school bus safety standards for five months and to require a study of the causes and ways of preventing school bus accidents and injuries.

H.R. 9291 will authorize appropriations of \$13 million for the transition quarter and \$60 million each for fiscal years 1977 and 1978 for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to carry out its duties under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. The authorizations will be used to conduct vehicle safety research, develop and implement new vehicle safety standards and amend current standards, provide consumer information, conduct defect and noncompliance testing, and enforce the provisions of the Act. These functions would be carried out by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) within DOT.

The bill will also delay for five months, until April 1, 1977, the effective date of new Federal school bus safety standards which DOT was required to issue by October 27, 1976.

Finally, H.R. 9291 will require DOT to conduct a study within 6 months of the bill's enactment on (1) factors related to school buses that cause accidents and injuries, and (2) actions which could be taken to reduce the frequency of accidents and the severity of injuries. The study would include the use of seatbelts or other occupant restraint systems and the relationship of the bus's age to the likelihood of accidents and injuries.

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