

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 1582

Short Title: Seat Belts on New School Buses.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hightower; Adams, Hensley, Luebke, Mosley, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Transportation, if favorable, Appropriations.

May 28, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL BUSES AND SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUSES
3 PURCHASED AFTER JULY 1, 1998, TO BE EQUIPPED WITH SEAT BELTS
4 AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO EQUIP NEW SCHOOL BUSES WITH
5 SEAT BELTS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. G.S. 115C-47(24) reads as rewritten:

8 "(24) Purchase of Activity Buses with Local Capital Outlay Tax Funds. –

9 Local boards of education are authorized to purchase activity buses with
10 local capital outlay tax funds, and are authorized to maintain these buses
11 in the county school bus garage. Reimbursement to the State Public
12 School Fund shall be made for all maintenance cost including labor,
13 gasoline and oil, repair parts, tires and tubes, antifreeze, etc. Labor cost
14 reimbursements and local funds may be used to employ additional
15 mechanics so as to insure that all activity buses owned and operated by
16 local boards of education are maintained in a safe mechanical condition.

17 ~~The State Board of Education shall inspect each activity bus and recommend~~
18 ~~to the board whether the bus should be replaced but replacements will be~~

1 ~~determined by the local board of education. Such replacement~~ Replacement
2 units for activity buses shall be financed with local funds.

3 Activity buses purchased after July 1, 1998, shall be equipped
4 with seat belts for all passengers."

5 Section 2. G.S. 115C-240(c) reads as rewritten:

6 "(c) The State Board of Education shall from time to time adopt such rules and
7 regulations with reference to the construction, equipment, color, and maintenance of
8 school buses, the number of pupils who may be permitted to ride at the same time upon
9 any bus, and the age and qualifications of drivers of school buses as it shall deem to be
10 desirable for the purpose of promoting safety in the operation of school buses. No school
11 bus shall be operated for the transportation of pupils unless such bus is constructed and
12 maintained as prescribed in such regulations and is equipped with adequate heating
13 facilities, a standard signaling device for giving due notice that the bus is about to make a
14 turn, an alternating flashing stoplight on the front of the bus, an alternating flashing
15 stoplight on the rear of the bus, and such other warning devices, fire protective equipment
16 and first aid supplies as may be prescribed for installation upon such buses by the
17 regulation of the State Board of Education. All buses purchased after July 1, 1998, shall
18 be equipped with seat belts for all passengers."

19 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
20 Education the sum of one million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$1,900,000) for the
21 1998-99 fiscal year to equip all school buses purchased after July 1, 1998, with seat belts
22 for passengers.

23 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1998.