

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 1582

Short Title: Seat Belts on School Buses.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Holt; and P. Wilson.

Referred to: Judiciary.

May 3, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT SCHOOL BUSES PURCHASED ON OR AFTER
2 JULY 1, 1989, SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH SAFETY BELTS, TO
3 APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND TO PROVIDE THAT
4 SCHOOL BUSES MANUFACTURED PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 1977, AND
5 TURNED OVER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION AS
6 OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT MAY NOT BE SOLD OR TRANSFERRED TO THE
7 GENERAL PUBLIC FOR USE AS A MOTOR VEHICLE.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 Section 1. G.S. 115C-240(c) reads as rewritten:

10 "(c) The State Board of Education shall from time to time adopt such rules and
11 regulations with reference to the construction, equipment, color, and maintenance of
12 school buses, the number of pupils who may be permitted to ride at the same time upon
13 any bus, and the age and qualifications of drivers of school buses as it shall deem to be
14 desirable for the purpose of promoting safety in the operation of school buses. No
15 school bus shall be operated for the transportation of pupils unless such bus is
16 constructed and maintained as prescribed in such regulations and is equipped with
17 adequate heating facilities, a standard signaling device for giving due notice that the bus
18 is about to make a turn, an alternating flashing stoplight on the front of the bus, an
19 alternating flashing stoplight on the rear of the bus, and such other warning devices, fire
20 protective equipment and first aid supplies as may be prescribed for installation upon
21 such buses by the regulation of the State Board of Education. No school bus purchased
22 as new equipment on or after July 1, 1989, shall be operated for the transportation of
23 pupils unless such bus is equipped with safety belts installed to meet federal standards."
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1 Sec. 2. G.S. 143-49(4) reads as rewritten:

2 "(4) To have general supervision of all storerooms and stores operated by the State
3 government, or any of its departments, institutions or agencies; to provide for transfer or
4 exchange to or between all State departments, institutions and agencies, or to sell all
5 supplies, materials and equipment which are surplus, obsolete or unused; and to have
6 supervision of inventories of all tangible personal property belonging to the State
7 government, or any of its departments, institutions or ~~agencies~~ agencies; provided that,
8 school buses manufactured before April 1, 1977, and turned over to the Department as
9 obsolete equipment may not be sold or transferred by the Department to the general
10 public for use as a motor vehicle. All receipts from the transfer or sale of such surplus,
11 obsolete or unused equipment of State departments, institutions and agencies which are
12 supported by appropriations from the general fund, except where such receipts have
13 been anticipated for, or budgeted against the cost of replacements, shall be placed by the
14 Secretary in an equipment reserve fund from which expenditures may be made only
15 with prior approval of the Director of the Budget. The duties imposed by this
16 subdivision shall not relieve any department, institution or agency of the State
17 government from accountability for equipment, materials, supplies and tangible
18 personal property under its control. Prior to taking any action under this subdivision
19 concerning expenditures from the equipment reserve fund, the Secretary may consult
20 with the Advisory Budget Commission."

21 Sec. 3. Effective July 1, 1989, all school buses purchased as new equipment
22 shall be equipped with safety belts installed to meet federal standards.

23 Sec. 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
24 Public Education \$2,847,000 for the 1989-90 fiscal year, and \$2,860,000 for the 1990-
25 91 fiscal year, to be used to cover the additional cost of purchasing school buses
26 equipped with safety belts.

27 Sec. 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989, except for Section 2
28 which is effective upon ratification.