

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 446*

Short Title: Seat Belts on New School Buses.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Reeves.

Referred to: Judiciary II.

March 22, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL SCHOOL BUSES AND SCHOOL ACTIVITY BUSES
2 PURCHASED AFTER JULY 1, 1999, TO BE EQUIPPED WITH SEAT BELTS
3 AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO EQUIP NEW SCHOOL BUSES WITH
4 SEAT BELTS.
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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~~ may purchase activity buses
10 with local capital outlay tax funds, and ~~are authorized to~~ may maintain
11 these buses in the county school bus garage. Reimbursement to the State
12 Public School Fund shall be made for all maintenance ~~cost~~ costs
13 including labor, gasoline and oil, repair parts, tires and tubes, antifreeze,
14 etc. Labor cost reimbursements and local funds may be used to employ
15 additional mechanics so as to insure that all activity buses owned and
16 operated by local boards of education are maintained in a safe
17 mechanical condition. ~~The State Board of Education shall inspect each~~
18 ~~activity bus and recommend to the board whether the bus should be replaced~~
19 ~~but replacements will be determined by the local board of education. Such~~
20 ~~replacement~~ Replacement units for activity buses shall be financed with

1 local funds. Activity buses purchased after July 1, 1999, shall be
2 equipped with seat belts for all passengers."

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

4 "(c) The State Board of Education shall from time to time adopt ~~such any~~ rules and
5 regulations with reference to the construction, equipment, color, and maintenance of
6 school buses, the number of pupils who may be permitted to ride at the same time upon
7 any bus, and the age and qualifications of drivers of school buses ~~as that it shall deem~~
8 deems to be desirable for the purpose of promoting safety in the operation of school
9 buses. No school bus shall be operated for the transportation of pupils unless ~~such that~~
10 bus is constructed and maintained as prescribed in ~~such the applicable~~ regulations and is
11 equipped with adequate heating facilities, a standard signaling device for giving due
12 notice that the bus is about to make a turn, an alternating flashing stoplight on the front of
13 the bus, an alternating flashing stoplight on the rear of the bus, and ~~such any~~ other
14 warning devices, fire protective equipment and first aid supplies as may be prescribed for
15 installation ~~upon such on the buses by the regulation of rules issued by the~~ State Board of
16 Education. All buses purchased after July 1, 1999, shall be equipped with seat belts for
17 all passengers."

18 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
19 Education the sum of one million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$1,900,000) for the
20 1999-2000 fiscal year to equip all school buses purchased after July 1, 1999, with seat
21 belts for passengers.

22 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1999.