

SENATE, No. 18

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires all automobile passengers to wear seat belts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning safety seat belt usage and amending P.L.1984,
2 c.179.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1984, c.179 (C.39:3-76.2f) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. Except as provided in P.L.1983, c.128 (C.39:3-76.2a et
10 al.) for children under eight years of age and weighing less than 80
11 pounds, all passengers **[under eight years of age and weighing more**
12 **than 80 pounds, and all passengers who are at least eight years of**
13 **age but less than 18 years of age, and each driver and front seat**
14 **passenger]** of a passenger automobile operated on a street or
15 highway in this State shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened
16 safety seat belt system as defined by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
17 Standard Number 209.

18 b. The driver of a passenger automobile shall secure or cause to
19 be secured in a properly adjusted and fastened safety seat belt
20 system, as defined by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard
21 Number 209, any passenger who is at least eight years of age but
22 less than 18 years of age.

23 For the purposes of the "Passenger Automobile Seat Belt Usage
24 Act," the term "passenger automobile" shall include vans, pick-up
25 trucks, and utility vehicles.

26 (cf: P.L.2001, c.244, s.2)

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28 2. Section 3 of P.L.1984, c.179 (C.39:3-76.2g) is amended to
29 read as follows:

30 3. This act shall not apply to a driver or **[front seat]** passenger
31 of:

32 a. A passenger automobile manufactured before July 1, 1966;

33 b. A passenger automobile in which the driver or passenger
34 possesses a written verification from a licensed physician that the
35 driver or passenger is unable to wear a safety seat belt system for
36 physical or medical reasons;

37 c. A passenger automobile which is not required to be
38 equipped with a safety seat belt system under federal law;

39 d. A passenger automobile operated by a rural letter carrier of
40 the United States Postal Service while performing the duties of a
41 rural letter carrier; or

42 e. A passenger automobile which was originally constructed
43 with fewer safety seat belt systems than are necessary to allow the
44 passenger to be buckled.

45 (cf: P.L.1999, c.422, s.2)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill would require all passengers, regardless of where they
7 are seated in a passenger automobile, to wear a seat belt.

8 Under current law, all children under the age of 18, the driver,
9 and any front seat passenger of passenger automobiles are required
10 to wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety seat belt. But the
11 current law does not require an adult riding in the rear seat of a
12 passenger automobile to wear a seat belt.