
HOUSE BILL 1503

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representative Appelwick.

Read first time January 31, 1991. Referred to Committee on
Transportation. Referred 2\5\91 to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to safety belts; and amending RCW 46.61.688.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.688 and 1990 c 250 s 58 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) For the purposes of this section, the term "motor vehicle"
6 includes:

7 (a) "Buses," meaning motor vehicles with motive power, except
8 trailers, designed to carry more than ten passengers;

9 (b) "Multipurpose passenger vehicles," meaning motor vehicles with
10 motive power, except trailers, designed to carry ten persons or less
11 that are constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features
12 for occasional off-road operation;

1 (c) "Passenger cars," meaning motor vehicles with motive power,
2 except multipurpose passenger vehicles, motorcycles, or trailers,
3 designed for carrying ten passengers or less; and

4 (d) "Trucks," meaning motor vehicles with motive power, except
5 trailers, designed primarily for the transportation of property.

6 (2) This section only applies to motor vehicles that meet the
7 manual seat belt safety standards as set forth in federal motor vehicle
8 safety standard 208. This section does not apply to a vehicle occupant
9 for whom no safety belt is available when all designated seating
10 positions as required by federal motor vehicle safety standard 208 are
11 occupied.

12 (3) Every person sixteen years of age or older operating or riding
13 in a motor vehicle shall wear the safety belt assembly in a properly
14 adjusted and securely fastened manner.

15 (4) No person may operate a motor vehicle unless all passengers
16 under the age of sixteen years are either wearing a safety belt
17 assembly or are securely fastened into an approved child restraint
18 device.

19 (5) A person violating this section shall be issued a notice of
20 traffic infraction under chapter 46.63 RCW. A finding that a person
21 has committed a traffic infraction under this section shall be
22 contained in the driver's abstract but shall not be available to
23 insurance companies or employers.

24 (6) Failure to comply with the requirements of this section does
25 not constitute negligence, nor may failure to wear a safety belt
26 assembly be admissible as evidence of negligence in any civil action.

27 ~~(7) ((Enforcement of this section by law enforcement officers may~~
28 ~~be accomplished only as a secondary action when a driver of a motor~~
29 ~~vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation of Title 46 RCW or~~
30 ~~an equivalent local ordinance or some other offense.~~

1 ~~(8))~~ This section does not apply to an operator or passenger who
2 possesses written verification from a licensed physician that the
3 operator or passenger is unable to wear a safety belt for physical or
4 medical reasons.

5 ~~((9))~~ (8) The state patrol may adopt rules exempting operators or
6 occupants of farm vehicles, construction equipment, and vehicles that
7 are required to make frequent stops from the requirement of wearing
8 safety belts.