

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

H

2

HOUSE BILL 1646  
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/25/98

Short Title: Seat Belts on Activity Buses.

(Public)

---

Sponsors:

---

Referred to:

---

May 28, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OF SEAT BELTS ON SCHOOL  
2 ACTIVITY BUSES AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
3 TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR SEAT BELTS ON ALL NEW SCHOOL  
4 ACTIVITY BUSES.  
5

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

1 equipment on or after July 1, 1998, shall be operated for the transportation of pupils  
2 unless the activity bus is equipped with safety belts meeting federal standards. The State  
3 Board of Education shall pay all additional costs to local boards of education for ordering  
4 seat belts on all new activity buses."

5           Section 2. The Board of Education shall report to the General Assembly on the  
6 first day of the 1999 Session any statutory changes and appropriations necessary to  
7 mandate and accomplish the installation, by December 31, 1999, of safety belts meeting  
8 federal standards on all school activity buses operated in this State.

9           Section 3. Effective July 1, 1998, all school activity buses purchased as new  
10 equipment shall be equipped with safety belts meeting federal standards.

11           Section 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of  
12 Education the sum of one hundred sixty-five thousand two hundred forty dollars  
13 (\$165,240) for the 1998-99 fiscal year to pay for the seat belts on all new activity buses  
14 required by Section 1 of this act.

15           Section 5. This act becomes effective July 1, 1998.