

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 344*
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/97
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 4/30/97
Senate Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 7/14/97
Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute #2 Adopted 8/5/98
Sixth Edition Engrossed 8/19/98

Short Title: Motor Vehicle Occupant Restraints.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 26, 1997

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENHANCE MOTOR VEHICLE OCCUPANT RESTRAINT SAFETY.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
4 Section 1. G.S. 20-135.2A(a) reads as rewritten:
5 "(a) Each front seat occupant ~~who is 16 years of age or older~~ and each driver of a
6 passenger motor vehicle manufactured with seat safety belts ~~in compliance with Federal~~
7 ~~Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208~~ shall have such a safety belt properly fastened about
8 his body at all times when the vehicle is in forward motion on a street or highway in this
9 State. Each driver of a passenger motor vehicle ~~manufactured with seat safety belts in~~
10 ~~compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208~~, who is transporting in the
11 front seat a person who is ~~(1) under 16 years of age and (2) not required to be restrained in~~
12 ~~accordance with G.S. 20-137.1~~, shall have the person secured by such a safety belt at all
13 times when the vehicle is operated in forward motion on a street or highway in this State.
14 ~~Persons required to be restrained in accordance with G.S. 20-137.1 shall be secured as required~~
15 ~~by that section."~~

1 Section 3. G.S. 20-137.1(a) reads as rewritten:

2 "(a) Every driver who is transporting a ~~child passenger~~ of less than 12 years of age
3 shall have the ~~child passenger~~ properly secured in a ~~child an age-appropriate~~ passenger
4 restraint system ~~(car safety seat) which meets federal standards applicable at the time of its~~
5 ~~manufacture. The requirements of this section may be met when the child is four years of age or~~
6 ~~older by securing the child in a seat safety belt system.~~

7 When a child is less than five years of age and less than 60 pounds in weight, the
8 requirements of this section shall be met by securing the child in a car safety seat which
9 meets federal standards applicable at the time of its manufacture. The car safety seat
10 shall be secured in a rear seat of the vehicle if the vehicle has a rear seat that will
11 accommodate a car safety seat. In the case of a car or van that has more than two rows of
12 passenger seats, a rear seat includes any middle row seat.

13 When a child is five years of age or older or is 60 pounds or more in weight, the
14 requirements of this section may be met by securing the child in a seat safety belt."

15 Section 4. This act becomes effective January 1, 1999.