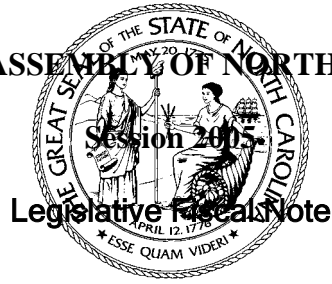


GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 774 (Third Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Seat Belt Use Enhancements.

SPONSOR(S): Senator Purcell

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>
REVENUES					
State Highway Patrol			Potential loss of federal funds without bill:		
Motor Carrier Enforcement			(\$5,000,000)	(\$5,000,000)	(\$5,000,000)
EXPENDITURES					
(No significant expenditures expected)					
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: State Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Enforcement; Administrative Office of the Courts					
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2005					

BILL SUMMARY: Senate Bill 774 would require all occupants of a motor vehicle manufactured with seat belts to wear a seat belt when the vehicle is in forward motion. This would extend to commercial vehicle drivers and to back seat passengers 16 years or older, who are currently not required to wear a seat belt, but not to drivers of property-carrying vehicles licensed for agricultural use.

Source: Research Division Bill Analysis, August 9, 2005

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: The major fiscal impact of SB 774 is the potential loss of an estimated \$5 million per year in federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration funding if the State does not require the use of seat belts by the driver in commercial vehicles. The loss of funding would begin in fiscal year 2007-08.

There may also be an increase in the number of seat belt infractions as the seat belt requirement is expanded, but no estimate is available on the size of the increase. The Administrative Office of the Courts reports that in 2004 there were approximately 160,000 defendant-drivers and 2,600 defendant-passengers charged under G.S. 20-135.2A with infractions for failure to wear a seat belt.

SOURCES OF DATA: Administrative Office of the Courts, State Highway Patrol, US Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Bob Weiss

APPROVED BY: James D. Johnson, Director
Fiscal Research Division



DATE: August 17, 2005

Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices