

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 812

Short Title: Safety Restraint Systems on School Buses. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Forrester; Apodaca, Foriest, Goodall, Hagan, and Tillman.

Referred to: Health Care.

March 15, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PASSENGER SAFETY RESTRAINT SYSTEMS BE
3 INSTALLED AND USED ON NEW SCHOOL BUSES OPERATED BY PUBLIC
4 OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
7 new section to read:

8 **"§ 115C-249A. Safety restraint systems on public school buses and public school**
9 **activity buses.**

10 (a) Unless specifically prohibited by the National Highway Transportation Safety
11 Administration, all public school buses and public school activity buses purchased,
12 leased, or contracted for use in North Carolina on or after July 1, 2008, and assigned to
13 public schools, shall be equipped at all designated seating positions with a combination
14 pelvic and upper torso passenger restraint system.

15 (b) Local boards of education or school boards are encouraged to evaluate the
16 cost and safety enhancement of installing passenger restraint systems on buses currently
17 owned and operated by the boards. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean a
18 local board of education or school board is required to equip buses purchased before
19 July 1, 2008, with passenger restraint systems.

20 (c) For purposes of this section, a "passenger restraint system" means any of the
21 following:

22 (1) A restraint system that is in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle
23 Safety Standard 209, for a type 2 seat belt assembly, and with Federal
24 Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 210, as those standards were in effect
25 on the date the school bus was manufactured.

26 (2) A restraint system certified by the school bus manufacturer that is in
27 compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 222 and
28 incorporates a type 2 lap/shoulder restraint system.

1 (d) No person, school district, school board, or organization, with respect to a
2 public school bus or public school activity bus, equipped with passenger restraint
3 system pursuant to this section, may be charged for a violation of this section if a
4 passenger on the school bus fails to use or improperly uses the passenger restraint
5 system."

6 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.