

March 22, 2005

**S 774. SEAT BELT USE ENHANCEMENTS.** *TO MODIFY THE SEAT BELT USE STATUTES TO ENHANCE THE USE OF SEAT BELTS.* Amends GS 20-135.2A to require that all vehicle occupants wear a seatbelt while the vehicle is in motion (formerly required seat belt use only by drivers and front seat occupants 16 years old and older). Increases penalty for violation from \$25 to \$50 and provides that driver will be assessed penalty and court costs for any unbelted passenger under age 16. A driver may be assessed only one penalty per incident. Provides that a driver will be assessed one drivers license point for a violation involving the driver or a passenger under the age of 16, with a maximum of one point per incident. (Formerly, no points were assessed for a violation.) Amends GS 20-183.3(a) to require inspection of seat belts during a vehicle safety inspection. Makes conforming amendments to GS 20-16(c). Effective December 1, 2005.

**Intro. by Purcell.**

Ref. to Judiciary II

GS 20

May 10, 2005

**S 774. SEAT BELT USE ENHANCEMENTS.** Intro. 3/22/05. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Amends GS 20-135.2A to extend seat belt requirement to all motor vehicles (was, passenger motor vehicle), to delete commercial vehicle exemption from seat belt use requirements, to reinstate penalty for violation of section to \$25 (was, proposed increase to \$50), to increase court costs from \$50 to \$75, and to delete proposed requirement that a driver be assessed a penalty and a drivers license point for the failure of a passenger under age 16 to wear a seat belt. Deletes proposed amendment to GS 20-183.3(a), which required that seat belts be inspected in connection with vehicle safety inspections. Makes technical and conforming changes.

August 10, 2005

**S 774. SEAT BELT USE ENHANCEMENTS.** Intro. 3/22/05. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition. Excepts from the mandatory seat belt law those children required to be in child restraints pursuant to GS 20-137.1. Deletes language that would have increased the court costs associated with violations of the seat belt law from \$50 to \$75. Deletes language that would have assessed a one-point penalty against those drivers who violate the seat belt law

June 28, 2006

**S 774. SEAT BELT USE ENHANCEMENTS.** Filed 3/21/05. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 3rd edition. Amends GS 20-135.2A (seat belt use mandatory) to (1) specify that the exception in subdivision (c)(1) (for drivers or occupants with medical or physical conditions that prevent restraint by seat belt or with professionally certified mental phobias against the wearing of seat belts) applies only to noncommercial motor vehicles; and (2) specify that the exception in subdivision (c)(4) for certain vehicles registered and licensed as a property carrying vehicle in accordance with GS 20-88 to delete the exception for vehicles being used for commercial purposes and to limit the exception for agricultural use to use intrastate commerce only. Amends Section 2 to specify that from December 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007, law enforcement agencies may issue only warnings for violations of the seat belt restriction with regards to backseat passengers but may issue citations for violations after June 30, 2007. Law enforcement agencies can continue to issue citations to front seat passengers not in compliance with the seatbelt restrictions.

July 6, 2006

**S 774. SEAT BELT USE ENHANCEMENTS.** Filed 3/21/05. House amendments make the following changes to 4th edition. Amendment #2b, as perfected by Amendment #3, amends GS 20-135.2A(c) to exempt the occupants of a motor home from the seatbelt requirements. Amendment #4 enacts new GS 20-135.2A(d1) to provide that failure of a rear seat occupant to

wear a seat belt is not justification for stopping the vehicle and amends GS 20-135.2A(e) to provide that violation of the seat belt requirement by a rear seat occupant is an infraction punishable by a \$10 penalty and no court costs.

July 21, 2006

**SL 2006-140 (S 774). SEAT BELT USE ENHANCEMENTS.** *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE SEAT BELT USE STATUTES TO ENHANCE THE USE OF SEAT BELTS.* Summarized in *Daily Bulletin* 3/22/05, 5/10/05, 8/10/05, 6/28/06, and 7/6/06. Enacted July 19, 2006. Effective December 1, 2006.