



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Con Bunde
Current Version: HCS SB 87 (JUD)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 87

Short Title: SEAT BELT/CHILD SAFETY DEVICE VIOLATIONS

Summary:

- Changes the current seat belt law from a secondary to a primary offense.
- Requires that an officer see an individual not wearing a seatbelt in order to issue a citation. Clarifies that in the case of a prosecution, the burden of proof rests with the officer.
- Exempts motorcycles, motor-driven cycles, snow mobiles and similar vehicles not designed to be operated on a highway.
- Clarifies that the seatbelt law applies when driving a vehicle "on a highway."

Benefits:

- Primary seat belt laws are proven to save lives and reduce injuries related to motor vehicle crashes.
- Saves the state hundreds of thousands of dollars in emergency, rehabilitative and insurance costs annually.

Background:

- Twenty-one other states and the District of Columbia have enacted primary seat belt laws. Supporters include many local and national safety groups, Department of Public Safety Commissioner William Tandeske, the chiefs of police in Fairbanks and Anchorage, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.