

NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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COMMITTEES:
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Good Morning Chairman Ruby and Transportation committee members.

For the record I am Jeff Magrum representing district 28 in the state House of Representatives.

I stand before you to introduce HB1257

The primary seatbelt law was voted down by the people in the 2014 election and since then a bill has been at our ND State Legislature each session including the 67th session. The one group that hasn't been represented through all of this is the people that want their freedom back to not have to wear a seatbelt without the heavy hand of government threatening us with fines. It seems like the liberty minded individuals are always playing defense and trying to stop the do gooders who want to save us from ourselves.

Yes, we can all agree that seatbelts are good but so is freedom. Is the proposed primary seatbelt law about safety or money. I am not willing to give up freedom for money and many others are not either. I am a 55-year-old grandpa, when a twenty something year old police officer stops me and write's me a ticket for twenty-five dollars, it is insulting. I have to give them my hard-earned money and for what? We have had a secondary seatbelt law since 1984 and people still don't wear a seatbelt all of the time. New Hampshire doesn't have a seatbelt law and they are getting along fine.

Eighteen-year-old individuals can vote and go to war. Anyone 18 and older should be able to decide for themselves if they want to buckle up.

Mr. Chairman and Committee members lets give our people some freedom back and vote do pass on HB1257.

I would be happy to answer any questions



Summary of Primary and Secondary Seat Belt Laws

(see following table for more information)

Source: Governors Highway Safety Association

Seat belt laws are divided into two categories: *primary* and *secondary*. Primary seat belt laws allow law enforcement officers to ticket a driver or passenger for not wearing a seat belt, without any other traffic offense taking place. Secondary seat belt laws state that law enforcement officers may issue a ticket for not wearing a seat belt only when there is another citable traffic infraction.

- **35 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands** have primary seat belt laws for front seat occupants.
- **15 states** have secondary laws for adult front seat occupants.
- **39 states, D.C., and 2 territories** have laws enforcing rear seat belt use. Of these:
 - **20 states, D.C. and 2 territories** have primary enforcement for all occupants.
 - **5 states** have primary enforcement for youth.
 - **11 states** include rear seats as secondary enforcement. Three of these are states with primary seat belt laws for front seat occupants. Six are states with secondary laws for adult front seat occupants.
- **10 states** do not have laws enforcing rear seat belt use.
 - Of states with primary front seat belt use laws, **11 states and the Virgin Islands** do not include rear seats
 - Of states with secondary front seat belt use laws, **9 states** do not include rear seats.
- **New Hampshire** has enacted neither a primary nor a secondary seat belt law for adults in any seat, although the state does have a primary child passenger safety law that covers all drivers and passengers under 18.

NEWS

Study finds that half of cops don't wear seat belts

By Associated Press

December 12, 2013 | 3:51am



Shutterstock

LOS ANGELES — If you've ever been pulled over by a police officer for not wearing a seat belt, there's a good chance the officer wasn't buckled up, either.

While 86 percent of Americans now wear seat belts, an upcoming study estimates that roughly half of law-enforcement officers don't wear them.

State laws mandating seat-belt use often exclude police, but the LAPD and most other departments require them in almost all circumstances.

FILED UNDER **CAR SAFETY, POLICE, SEAT BELTS, 12/12/13**