04/10130

HOUSE BILL NO. 927

Offered January 14, 2004 Prefiled January 14, 2004

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-1091 of the Code of Virginia, relating to safety belts in school buses.

Patrons—Fralin, Athey, Ebbin and Ware, O.

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 46.2-1091 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 46.2-1091. Safety belts to be worn by certain bus drivers.

Any person operating a school bus shall wear the appropriate safety belt system when the bus is in motion. Any school bus purchased by, or for use by, any school or school division on or after July 1, 2004, shall be equipped with safety lap belts or combinations of safety lap belts and shoulder harnesses for all passengers, including the driver. On and after July 1, 2009, all school buses shall be equipped with safety lap belts or combinations of safety lap belts and shoulder harnesses for all passengers, including the driver. All such safety belts and shoulder harnesses shall be of types approved by the Superintendent of State Police. The Board of Education shall adopt such policies, guidelines, and regulations as they shall deem necessary or proper to ensure that all school bus passengers, including the driver, wear such safety belts and shoulder harnesses at all times when the bus is in motion.

B. Violation of Failure of the driver of any school bus to wear a safety belt or shoulder harness as required by this section shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor.