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HOUSE BILL NO. 1909

Offered January 15, 1999

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

Patrons—Spruill, Barlow, Baskerville, Christian, Crittenden, Day, Drake, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., Robinson and Williams; Senators: Marsh, Maxwell and Miller, Y.B.

Referred to Committee on Education

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 in school buses.

A. 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 January 1, 2000, 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.

Violation of B. 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.