

HB 1674 -- School Bus Safety Belts

Sponsor: Flook

This bill imposes a surcharge on moving traffic violations and creates the School Bus Safety Assistance Fund to assist school districts in obtaining buses that have seat belts for all passengers. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will allocate the funds, and priority will be given to buses used for elementary schools. Beginning January 1, 2007, new buses purchased or buses manufactured after that date must be equipped with lap-shoulder safety belts or other federally approved restraint systems. The bill specifies how the belts must be used and exempts the state and school districts, among others, from liability for non-use or misuse of the belt under conditions described in the bill.