

HB 713 -- Safety Belts

Sponsor: Phillips

Currently, the driver and each front-seat passenger of a car or a truck with a licensed gross weight under 12,000 pounds must wear a safety belt. Exemptions are allowed for United States Postal Service employees while performing their duties, persons operating or riding a motor vehicle being used in agricultural work-related activities, and persons with a medical reason. This bill requires the driver and all the passengers in every car or truck to wear a safety belt except those already exempt. A person with a medical reason must possess documentation from a physician to be exempted from wearing a safety belt. If there are more persons than there are safety belts in the enclosed area of a motor vehicle, the passengers who are not able to wear safety belts must sit on the seats behind the front seat unless the vehicle is designed only for a front-seated area.

The bill also removes the provision that prohibits a person from being stopped, inspected, or detained solely for not wearing a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt.