

HB 185 -- School Bus Safety Belts

Sponsor: Flook

This bill imposes a \$15 surcharge for each motor vehicle moving violation to be deposited into the newly created School Bus Safety Assistance Fund to assist school districts in equipping new school buses with lap-shoulder safety belts for all passengers. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will decide how the funds are to be allocated with more moneys given to school districts with lower quotients when dividing the district's assessed valuation by the weighted daily attendance of the most recent school year. Beginning January 1, 2010, new buses purchased or buses manufactured after that date must be equipped with lap-shoulder safety belts or other federally approved restraint systems on each passenger seat. 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 certain conditions. School districts must give first priority to elementary school buses.