

HB 1468 -- Seat Belts

Sponsor: Byrd

This bill makes changes to the laws regarding seat belts.

The bill allows law enforcement officers to stop, inspect, or detain any person solely because he or she fails to wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt. Noncompliance with the mandatory wearing of seat belts does not constitute probable cause for a search of a driver, passenger, or vehicle.

The bill also changes a provision concerning the recovery of damages by a plaintiff. If a court determines that failure to wear a seat belt contributed to a plaintiff's claimed injuries, the amount of a plaintiff's recovery may be reduced by an amount not exceeding 10%. Currently, the amount can be reduced by 1%.