

## HB 1356 -- 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 allocate the funds, and priority will be given to buses used for elementary schools. Beginning January 1, 2009, 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 certain conditions.