

1-1 By: Hamilton, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.B. No. 323  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2007;  
1-3 May 2, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Transportation and Homeland Security; May 9, 2007, reported  
1-5 adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following  
1-6 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 9, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 323 By: Watson

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to three-point seat belts on buses that transport  
1-11 schoolchildren.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 547.701, Transportation  
1-14 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 547.701. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL  
1-16 BUSES AND OTHER BUSES USED TO TRANSPORT SCHOOLCHILDREN.

1-17 SECTION 2. Section 547.701, Transportation Code, is amended  
1-18 by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

1-19 (e) In this subsection, "bus" includes a school bus and a  
1-20 school activity bus. A bus operated by or contracted for use by a  
1-21 school district for the transportation of schoolchildren shall be  
1-22 equipped with a three-point seat belt for each passenger, including  
1-23 the operator. This subsection applies to:

1-24 (1) each bus purchased by a school district on or after  
1-25 September 1, 2010, for the transportation of schoolchildren; and

1-26 (2) each school-chartered bus contracted for use by a  
1-27 school district on or after September 1, 2014, for the  
1-28 transportation of schoolchildren.

1-29 SECTION 3. Chapter 34, Education Code, is amended by adding  
1-30 Section 34.013 to read as follows:

1-31 Sec. 34.013. FUNDING FOR THREE-POINT SEAT BELTS. (a) A  
1-32 person may offer to donate three-point seat belts or money for the  
1-33 purchase of three-point seat belts for a school district's school  
1-34 buses.

1-35 (b) The board of trustees of a school district shall  
1-36 consider any offer made by a person under Subsection (a). The board  
1-37 of trustees may accept or decline the offer after adequate  
1-38 consideration.

1-39 (c) The board of trustees may acknowledge a person who  
1-40 donates three-point seat belts or money for the purchase of  
1-41 three-point seat belts for a school bus under this section by  
1-42 displaying a small, discreet sign on the side or back of the bus  
1-43 recognizing the person who made the donation. The sign may not  
1-44 serve as an advertisement for the person who made the donation.

1-45 SECTION 4. The changes made by Section 2 of this Act do not  
1-46 take effect unless the legislature appropriates money specifically  
1-47 for the purpose of reimbursing school districts for expenses  
1-48 incurred in complying with that section.

1-49 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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