

1 SB148  
2 173559-1  
3 By Senators McClendon, Livingston, Dial, Ward and Waggoner  
4 RFD: Transportation and Energy  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-16

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SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the front seat occupant of a passenger car manufactured in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Standard No. 208 is required to have a safety belt fastened while the vehicle is in motion. Children under the age of 15 in a motor vehicle are required to wear a seat belt or be protected by another child passenger restraint system.

This bill would require each occupant of a passenger motor vehicle to have a safety belt fastened while the vehicle is in motion.

Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, prohibits a general law whose purpose or effect would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds from becoming effective with regard to a local governmental entity without enactment by a 2/3 vote unless: it comes within one of a number of

1 specified exceptions; it is approved by the  
2 affected entity; or the Legislature appropriates  
3 funds, or provides a local source of revenue, to  
4 the entity for the purpose.

5 The purpose or effect of this bill would be  
6 to require a new or increased expenditure of local  
7 funds within the meaning of the amendment. However,  
8 the bill does not require approval of a local  
9 governmental entity or enactment by a 2/3 vote to  
10 become effective because it comes within one of the  
11 specified exceptions contained in the amendment.

12  
13 A BILL  
14 TO BE ENTITLED  
15 AN ACT  
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17 To amend Section 32-5B-4 of the Code of Alabama  
18 1975, to further require each occupant of passenger cars  
19 manufactured with safety belts to have a safety belt fastened  
20 when the vehicle is in motion; and in connection therewith  
21 would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new  
22 or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of  
23 Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now  
24 appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of  
25 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1                   Section 1. Section 32-5B-4 of the Code of Alabama  
2 1975, is amended to read as follows:

3                   "§32-5B-4.

4                   "(a) Each ~~front seat~~ occupant of a passenger car  
5 manufactured with safety belts in compliance with Federal  
6 Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208 shall have a safety belt  
7 properly fastened about his or her body at all times when the  
8 vehicle is in motion.

9                   "(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not  
10 apply to:

11                   "(1) A child passenger under the purview of Section  
12 32-5-222, who is required to use a child passenger restraint  
13 system or a seat belt pursuant to Section 32-5-222.

14                   "(2) An occupant of a passenger car who possesses a  
15 written statement from a licensed physician that he or she is  
16 unable for medical reasons to wear a safety belt.

17                   "(3) A rural letter carrier of the United States  
18 Postal Service while performing his or her duties as a rural  
19 letter carrier.

20                   "(4) A driver or passenger delivering newspapers or  
21 mail from house to house.

22                   "(5) Passengers in a passenger car with model year  
23 prior to 1965.

24                   "(6) Passengers in motor vehicles which normally  
25 operate in reverse."

26                   Section 2. Although this bill would have as its  
27 purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased

1 expenditure of local funds, the bill is excluded from further  
2 requirements and application under Amendment 621, now  
3 appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official ReCompilation of  
4 the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, because the  
5 bill defines a new crime or amends the definition of an  
6 existing crime.

7           Section 3. This act shall become effective on the  
8 first day of the third month following its passage and  
9 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.