

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
80R6736 JTS-F

S.B. 1080
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Under current law, the driver of a school bus is not required to wear a seat belt when the school bus is in motion. Federal law (49 C.F.R. 392.16) requires all drivers of commercial motor vehicles to wear a safety belt while operating a commercial vehicle, but exempts government entities, including school districts and school bus contractors, therefore, exempting school bus drivers from this requirement. A school bus driver is at the same risk as a regular driver to be involved in an accident and therefore should be required to wear a safety belt. Furthermore, in the event of a crash, the driver of a school bus can become unseated and lose control of the school bus.

As proposed, S.B. 1080 establishes that a person commits an offense if, as the operator of a school bus equipped with a safety belt for the operator's seat, the person is not secured by the safety belt.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 545.413(a), Transportation Code, to establish that a person commits an offense if, as the operator of a school bus equipped with a safety belt for the operator's seat, the person is not secured by the safety belt. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2007.