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H.36

Introduced by Representative Till of Jericho

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; seat belt law; safety belt law; primary enforcement

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize  
primary enforcement of the adult safety belt law.

An act relating to primary enforcement of the adult safety belt law

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1259 is amended to read:

§ 1259. SAFETY BELTS; PERSONS ~~AGE 18 OR OVER~~ 18 YEARS OF  
AGE OR OLDER

\* \* \*

~~(e) This section may be enforced only if a law enforcement officer has  
detained the operator of a motor vehicle for another suspected traffic violation.  
An operator shall not be subject to the penalty established in this section unless  
the operator is required to pay a penalty for the primary violation. [Repealed.]~~

\* \* \*

1       Sec. 2. REPORTING BY THE VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
2                   COUNCIL

3           The Vermont Criminal Justice Council, in consultation with law  
4           enforcement agencies, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate  
5           Committees on Judiciary and on Transportation on or before the 15th day of  
6           January in 2024, 2025, and 2026 containing, for the prior State fiscal year:

7                   (1) the total number of traffic stops broken out by race of the driver  
8           involved in the traffic stop; and

9                   (2) the following information for all traffic stops involving safety belts  
10          not worn by persons 18 years of age or over:

11                   (A) the age, gender, and race of the driver involved in the traffic stop;

12                   (B) the reason for the traffic stop;

13                   (C) the type of search conducted, if any;

14                   (D) the evidence located, if any;

15                   (E) the outcome of the traffic stop, including whether:

16                           (i) a written warning was issued,

17                           (ii) a citation for a civil ticket was issued;

18                           (iii) a citation or arrest for a misdemeanor or a felony occurred; or

19                           (iv) no subsequent action was taken;

1           (F) summary data broken out by age, gender, race, and outcome of  
2           the traffic stop where the reason for the stop was the primary enforcement of a  
3           person 18 years of age or over not wearing a safety belt; and

4           (G) summary data broken out by age, gender, race, and outcome of  
5           the traffic stop where the reason for the stop was for any reason other than the  
6           primary enforcement of a person 18 years of age or over not wearing a safety  
7           belt.

8           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

9           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.