

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 9, 2023

3 SENATE BILL NO. 681

By: Pederson

4
5
6 An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S.
2021, Section 12-417, as amended by Section 97,
7 Chapter 282, O.S.L. 2022 (47 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section
12-417), which relates to required safety belts;
8 modifying requirements; and providing an effective
date.
9

10
11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

12 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 12-417, as
13 amended by Section 97, Chapter 282, O.S.L. 2022 (47 O.S. Supp. 2022,
14 Section 12-417), is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 12-417. A. 1. Every operator and front seat passenger
16 of a Class A commercial motor vehicle, Class B commercial motor
17 vehicle, Class C commercial motor vehicle or a passenger vehicle
18 operated in this state shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened
19 safety seat belt system, required to be installed in the motor
20 vehicle when manufactured pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Section 571.208.

21 2. Every passenger sixteen (16) years of age and younger in the
22 back seat of a passenger vehicle shall wear a properly adjusted and
23 fastened safety seat belt, unless otherwise provided for in a child
24

1 passenger restraint system as required pursuant to Section 11-1112
2 of this title.

3 3. For the purposes of this section, "passenger vehicle" shall
4 mean a Class D motor vehicle, but shall not include trucks, truck-
5 tractors, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, or motorized bicycles,
6 or a vehicle used primarily for farm use which is registered and
7 licensed pursuant to the provisions of Section 1134 of this title.

8 B. The Commissioner of Public Safety, upon application from a
9 person who, for medical reasons, is unable to wear a safety seat
10 belt system supported by written attestation of such fact from a
11 physician licensed pursuant to Section 495 of Title 59 of the
12 Oklahoma Statutes, may issue to the person an exemption from the
13 provisions of this section. The exemption shall be in the form of a
14 restriction appearing on the driver license of the person and shall
15 remain in effect until the expiration date of the driver license.
16 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the person
17 from applying for another exemption as provided for in this section.
18 The issuance of an attestation by a physician and the subsequent
19 issuance of an exemption by the Commissioner, in good faith, shall
20 not give rise to, nor shall the physician and the state thereby
21 incur, any liability whatsoever in damages or otherwise, to any
22 person injured by reason of failure of the person to wear a safety
23 seat belt system.

24

1 C. This section shall not apply to an operator of a motor
2 vehicle while performing official duties as a route carrier of the
3 U.S. Postal Service.

4 D. The Department of Public Safety shall not record or assess
5 points for violations of this section on any license holder's
6 traffic record maintained by Service Oklahoma.

7 E. Fine and court costs for violating the provisions of this
8 section shall not exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).

9 F. Municipalities may enact and municipal police officers may
10 enforce ordinances prohibiting and penalizing conduct under
11 provisions of this section, but the provisions of those ordinances
12 shall be the same as provided for in this section, and the
13 enforcement provisions under those ordinances shall not be more
14 stringent than those of this section.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
17 February 9, 2023 - DO PASS

18
19
20
21
22
23
24