

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 681

By: Pederson

AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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