

On January 18, 2010, legislation was signed into law requiring all occupants to buckle up, regardless of their seating position in a vehicle. A secondary offense, the new law allows police to issue summonses to unbuckled back seat occupants, 18 years of age and older, when the vehicle they are riding in is stopped for another violation. The law is effective immediately.

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The following is part of Assembly Bill 870 - Requires all automobile passengers to wear seat belts.

\*\_subsection c.\_\* All rear seat passengers 18 years of age or older of a passenger automobile operated on a street or highway in this State shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety seat belt system as defined by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 209.1 29 For the purposes of the "Passenger Automobile Seat Belt Usage Act," the term "passenger automobile" shall include vans, pick-up trucks, and utility vehicles.

(cf: P.L.2001, c.244, s.2)

3. (New section) Enforcement of the provisions of \_subsection\_ \_c. of section 2 of P.L.1984, c.179 (C.39:3-76.2f)\_ by State or local law enforcement officials shall be accomplished by treating a violation thereof only as a \*\_secondary offense\_\* when a driver of a passenger automobile has been detained for some other suspected violation of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes or other law. Each rear seat passenger 18 years of age or older of a passenger automobile shall be responsible for any fine imposed pursuant to section 6 of P.L.1984, c.179 (C.39:3-76.2j) for failure to wear a seat belt pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of P.L.1984, c.179 (C.39:3-76.2f).1

\*\_This act shall take effect immediately. 1/18/2010 Approved P.L.2009, c.318.\_\*