



Fact Sheet on HB 383 Ways and Means Committee Issues

- * The Ways and Means Committee has amended the bill to reduce the fines by half. The **new fines would be \$25 for a first offense and \$50 for a second** and subsequent offense. This change is supported by the bill's sponsors.
- * While specific cost savings estimates vary depending on what is included in the calculations, there is unanimity in the finding that seat belt laws increase seat belt use and increased seat belt use reduces health care costs. In NH, data from the CODES Project indicates that acute care hospital costs alone are an average of **\$7,500 less for those who are belted than for those who are not**.
- * While more difficult to calculate, the savings from preventing brain and spinal cord injuries are tremendous. It is estimated that a single serious brain injury will cost more than \$4 million over a lifetime. Thus, the **estimate of \$40 million in health care cost savings per year** resulting from a seat belt law is conservative.
- * The bill, including the amendment on the fines, qualifies NH for a **\$3.7 million incentive payment** from NHTSA. **\$1 million of this is to be spent on behavioral strategies** through the NH Highway Safety Agency over four years. This could include new signage and public information on the law.
- * In 2000, our current seat belt law went into effect requiring that 13 to 17 year olds buckle up. Following that law change, both fatality rates and the number of deaths showed major declines among 13 to 17 year olds. 25 teens died as motor vehicle occupants in the three years preceding the change. In the three years after the current law went into effect, 11 young people lost their lives. So, **almost FIVE (4.66) fewer teens (13 – 17 years old) died on NH roads each year following the expansion of the seat belt law**.

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General Fact Sheet on HB 383

The Seat Belts for All Coalition urges you to support this bill because it:

- * Is expected to save 8 lives per year
- * Will prevent an estimated 150 life-changing and life-long injuries each year
- * Results in significant savings in health care, long term care and public assistance costs that result primarily from brain and spinal cord injuries
- * Is supported by 64% of the public and by the NH Departments of Transportation, Safety and Health and Human Services, the NH Association of Chiefs of Police and Fire Chiefs, the NH Public Health Association, the NH Brain Injury Association, the NH Medical Association, AAA, NH Nurses Association and by more than 40 health and public health, public safety, businesses and non-profits that recognize its benefit for our public health and for our economy
- * 64% of those who don't always use their belts say that, if passed, the law will increase their use. (UNH Survey Center 2009 Granite State Survey)

The Seat Belts for All Coalition

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