

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

SENATE BILL NO. 2362
(Senators Rummel, Hogue, Lee)
(Representatives Klemin, Lefor)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 39-21-41.4 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to safety belt usage; to repeal section 39-21-41.5 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to secondary enforcement of safety belt requirements; and to provide a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 39-21-41.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-21-41.4. Use of safety belts required in certain motor vehicles - Enforcement - Evidence.

~~Subject to the limitations of this section and section 39-21-41.5, a~~ driver may not operate upon a highway a motor vehicle designed for carrying fewer than eleven passengers, which was originally manufactured with safety belts unless each ~~front-seat~~ occupant is wearing a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt. This section does not apply to a child in a child restraint or safety belt in accordance with section 39-21-41.2; to drivers of implements of husbandry; to operators of farm vehicles as defined in subsection 5 of section 39-04-19; to rural mail carriers while on duty delivering mail; to an occupant with a medical or physically disabling condition that prevents appropriate restraint in a safety belt, if a qualified physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse states in a signed writing the nature of the condition and the reason restraint is inappropriate; or when all ~~front-seat~~ safety belts are in use by other occupants. A physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse who, in good faith, provides a statement that restraint would be inappropriate is not subject to civil liability. A violation for not wearing a safety belt under this section is not, in itself, evidence of negligence. The fact of a violation of this section is not admissible in any proceeding other than one charging the violation.

SECTION 2. REPEAL. Section 39-21-41.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2362.

Senate Vote: Yeas 31 Nays 14 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 53 Nays 38 Absent 3

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2023,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State