

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 7196**

LCO No. 5705

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SEAT BELTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (c) of section 14-  
2 100a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

4 (c) (1) The operator of and any [front seat] passenger in any motor  
5 vehicle or fire fighting apparatus originally equipped with seat safety  
6 belts complying with the provisions of 49 CFR 571.209, as amended  
7 from time to time, shall wear such seat safety belt while the vehicle is  
8 being operated on any highway, except as follows:

9 (A) A child under eight years of age shall be restrained as provided  
10 in subsection (d) of this section; and

11 (B) The operator of such vehicle shall secure or cause to be secured  
12 in a seat safety belt any passenger eight years of age or older and  
13 under sixteen years of age. [; and]

14 [(C) If the operator of such vehicle is under eighteen years of age,  
15 such operator and each passenger in such vehicle shall wear such seat  
16 safety belt while the vehicle is being operated on any highway.]

17 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not

18 apply to (A) any person whose physical disability or impairment  
19 would prevent restraint in such safety belt, provided such person  
20 obtains a written statement from a licensed physician or a licensed  
21 advanced practice registered nurse containing reasons for such  
22 person's inability to wear such safety belt and including information  
23 concerning the nature and extent of such condition. Such person shall  
24 carry the statement on his or her person or in the motor vehicle at all  
25 times when it is being operated, [or] (B) an authorized emergency  
26 vehicle, other than fire fighting apparatus, responding to an  
27 emergency call or a motor vehicle operated by a rural letter carrier of  
28 the United States postal service while performing his or her official  
29 duties or by a person engaged in the delivery of newspapers, (C) any  
30 passenger on a bus, as defined in 49 USC 30127, or (D) a vehicle  
31 manufactured prior to January 1, 1968.

32 Sec. 2. Section 54-33m of the general statutes is repealed and the  
33 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

34 The failure of an operator of, or [front seat] passenger in, a private  
35 passenger motor vehicle or vanpool vehicle to wear a seat safety belt as  
36 required by section 14-100a, as amended by this act, shall not  
37 constitute probable cause for a law enforcement official to conduct a  
38 search of such vehicle and its contents.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-100a(c)(1) and (2)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	54-33m