

# **Bill Summary for House Bill 323**

Relating to three-point seat belts on buses that transport school children.

## **Summary:**

Requires all school buses purchased by school districts after September 1, 2010 to be equipped with seatbelts for each passenger. Also requires all school-chartered buses contracted for use by a district on or after September 1, 2011 to be equipped with seatbelts.

Requires the State Board of Education to develop and make available to districts a program of instruction on the proper use of three-point seat belts. Additionally, the legislation requires districts to report annually to the Texas Education Agency information regarding school bus accidents, to be published by the agency on its Internet website.

Prohibits the seatbelt requirement from taking effect unless the legislature appropriates money specifically for reimbursing school districts for expenses incurred in complying with the bill. This includes the costs associated with installing the seatbelts to existing buses, purchasing new buses for loss of capacity, and the operational costs. No such appropriations were made during the legislative session.

Effective Date: September 1, 2007