



Traffic Safety Bulletin

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY

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SEAT BELT LAW CHANGE (BACK SEAT PASSENGERS) • JANUARY 18, 2010

On January 18, 2010, Governor Corzine signed into law a bill amending and supplementing statutory law **C.39:3-76.2f** requiring an adult riding in the **back seat** of a passenger automobile to wear a seat belt. The full text of the law can be found at: http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2008/Bills/AL09/318_.PDF

OVERVIEW OF P.L. 2009, CHAPTER 318

1. All **adults** 18 years of age or older riding in the back seat of a passenger automobile must wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt as defined by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 209.
2. Violation of this law is a **secondary offense** and may only be invoked when the driver of the passenger automobile has been detained for some other suspected motor-vehicle violation.
3. The fine for violating this requirement is \$25 plus costs and fees; no points will be assessed for this offense. The ticket should be issued to the passenger violating the requirement, not the driver.
4. This act does not apply to the adult back seat passenger if:
 - A. The vehicle she or he is riding in was manufactured before July 1, 1966, is not equipped with seat belts under federal law, or was originally constructed without seat belts in the rear seating positions, or
 - B. She or he possesses a written verification from a licensed physician that she or he is unable to wear a seat belt for physical or medical reasons.
5. This law became effective on January 18, 2010.



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