

*The Committee of Council submit for the consideration of  
His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor a Bill intituled*

Motor-Vehicle Amendment Act, 1976 (No. 1)

*and advise that the same be transmitted by Message to the  
Legislative Assembly.*

*Victoria, 9th day of June, A.D. 1976*

*W. R. Bennett*

*Presiding Member of the Executive Council.*

*Approved this 9th day of June, A.D. 1976*

*W. S. Owen*

*Lieutenant-Governor.*

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First Session, Thirty-first Parliament  
25 Elizabeth II, 1976  
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

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**BILL 68**

**MOTOR-VEHICLE AMENDMENT ACT, 1976  
(NO. 1)**

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Honourable Minister of Transport  
and Communications

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**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

The purpose of this Bill is to make it mandatory for persons to wear seat belt assemblies. The Bill basically follows the Ontario and Saskatchewan legislation.

Motor-vehicle Amendment Act, 1976 (No. 1)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

R.S.B.C.  
1960  
c. 253  
s. 206.

Seat belt  
assembly.

1. Section 206 of the *Motor-vehicle Act* is repealed and the following substituted:

206. (1) No person shall sell or offer for sale or operate on any highway a motor-vehicle required to be registered and licensed only under this Act and manufactured or assembled after December 1, 1963, other than a motor-cycle, unless it is equipped with not less than 2 seat belt assemblies for use in the front seat in accordance with the regulations.

(2) In this section "seat belt assembly" means a device or assembly composed of straps, webbing, or similar material that restrains the movement of a person in order to prevent or mitigate injury to the person and includes a pelvic restraint or an upper torso restraint or both of them.

(3) No person shall drive or operate a motor-vehicle on a highway in which a seat belt assembly required under this section or the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* (Canada) at the time the motor-vehicle was manufactured, assembled, or imported into Canada has been removed, rendered partly or wholly inoperative, or modified to reduce its effectiveness.

(4) A person who is on a highway in a motor-vehicle in which a seat belt assembly is provided for the seating position occupied by that person shall wear the complete seat belt assembly in a properly adjusted and securely fastened manner.

(5) Subsection (4) does not apply to a person

- (a) driving a motor-vehicle in reverse, or
- (b) who is in possession of a valid and subsisting certificate in the prescribed form signed by a medical practitioner certifying that the person is,
  - (i) for the period stated in the certificate, unable for medical reasons to wear a safety belt assembly, or
  - (ii) because of the person's size, build, or other physical characteristic, unable to wear a seat belt assembly, or
- (c) who is actually engaged in work which requires him to alight from and re-enter the motor-vehicle at frequent intervals and who, while engaged in that work, does not drive or travel in that vehicle at a speed exceeding 25 miles per hour, or
- (d) under age 16.

(6) No person shall drive a motor-vehicle on a highway in which there is a passenger who has attained age 6 but is under age 16 and who occupies a seating position for which a seat belt assembly is provided unless that passenger is wearing the complete seat belt assembly in a properly adjusted and securely fastened manner.

(7) Subsection (6) does not apply where the passenger

(a) is in possession of a valid and subsisting certificate in the prescribed form signed by a medical practitioner certifying that the person is,

(i) for the period stated in the certificate unable for medical reasons to wear a seat belt assembly, or

(ii) because of the passenger's size, build, or other physical characteristic, unable to wear a seat belt assembly, or

(b) is actually engaged in work which requires him to alight from and re-enter the motor-vehicle at frequent intervals and the motor-vehicle does not travel at a speed exceeding 25 miles per hour.

(8) Notwithstanding this section, where a seat belt assembly consists of a pelvic restraint and a separate upper torso restraint, only the pelvic restraint need be worn.

(9) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations

(a) requiring the use of child seating and restraint systems in motor-vehicles on highways and prescribing the specifications for them,

(b) defining the age of a child for the purpose of paragraph (a), and

(c) providing for the exemption from any of the provisions of this section of

(i) any type or class of motor-vehicle, and

(ii) any class of drivers or passengers in motor-vehicles.

**Commence-  
ment.** 2. This Act comes into force on a day to be fixed by Proclamation.

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in right of the Province of British Columbia.

1976