

HB 95 is introduced to emphasize efficiency in law enforcement activity with respect to traffic violations, and highlight several civil rights concerns related to the primary offense law.

Simply put, the sponsors maintain that wearing a seat belt is important, and should remain in law, but that expecting an officer to pull over a driver, on that basis alone, is unnecessary and a waste of a legitimate resource.

Moreover, as the current data shows, 18 states, across the political spectrum, have secondary offense laws exclusively. Of those states, a comparable percentage of drivers use seat belts. States have seen an increase of seat belt use with only a secondary offense enforced. A dramatic increase in usage, therefore, is due to factors other than issuing seatbelt citations.

If increased seat belt use is the goal, it can be accomplished through other means.