

## Lawmaker seeks to expand seat belt law

By David White

MONTGOMERY - State Rep. Pat Moore, R-Pleasant Grove, says some of her friends have been hurt as back-seat passengers of vehicles involved in accidents.

That's one reason she's sponsoring a bill that would require occupants of a car, pickup truck, van or other motor vehicle, including people in a back seat, to wear a seat belt while the vehicle is moving.

"We need to be as secure as we can in the car, so that if it does suddenly stop, or there's an accident, we're protected more," Moore said.

Under current law for motor vehicles, excluding motorcycles, that are designed to carry 10 or fewer people:

Children 14 or younger must wear seat belts, booster seats or children's car seats while riding anywhere in a moving vehicle.

All front-seat occupants, regardless of age, must wear a seat belt or child restraint while the vehicle is moving. The few exceptions include people riding in cars made before 1965.

Moore's proposal would require people 15 or older to wear a seat belt no matter where they were in a moving vehicle, including a back seat. Her bill, in effect, would ban anyone from riding in the bed of a pickup truck.

Moore's bill also would raise the fine for not wearing a seat belt to \$50, up from a maximum of \$25.

Proven safety:

"This bill is for the safety of all passengers in any vehicle," she said, adding that wearing seat belts has been proven to prevent major injuries and save lives.

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