

DAMAGE, INJURY, OR DEATH IS NOT RELATED TO THE DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, INSTALLATION, SUPPLYING, OR REPAIR OF A SEAT BELT.

(3) (1) NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE RIGHT OF A PERSON TO INSTITUTE A CIVIL ACTION FOR DAMAGES AGAINST A DEALER, MANUFACTURER, DISTRIBUTOR, FACTORY BRANCH, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITY ARISING OUT OF AN INCIDENT THAT INVOLVES A DEFECTIVELY INSTALLED OR DEFECTIVELY OPERATING SEAT BELT.

(II) IN A CIVIL ACTION IN WHICH 2 OR MORE PARTIES ARE NAMED AS JOINT TORT-FEASORS, INTERPLEADED AS DEFENDANTS, OR IMPEADED AS DEFENDANTS, AND 1 OF THE JOINT TORT-FEASORS OR DEFENDANTS IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, INSTALLATION, SUPPLYING, OR REPAIR OF A SEAT BELT, A COURT SHALL ORDER SEPARATE TRIALS TO ACCOMPLISH THE ENDS OF JUSTICE ON A MOTION OF ANY PARTY.

(H) THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE SHALL ESTABLISH PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(I) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ON THIS STATE'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION IN THE ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT ON THE STATE'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN THAT THIS STATE SUBMITS TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION AND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION UNDER 23 U.S.C. § 402.

(J) A POLICE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION ONLY AS A SECONDARY ACTION WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER DETAINS A DRIVER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE FOR A SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE CODE.

27-106.

(A) Any person who is convicted of a violation of § 22-404.4 of this article shall be fined \$250.

(B) ANY PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF § 22-412.3 OF THIS ARTICLE IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$20 ~~25~~, INCLUDING COURT COSTS.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the policy of this State that enactment of this mandatory automobile safety belt usage law is intended to be compatible with support for federal safety standards requiring automatic crash protection and should not be used in any manner to rescind federal requirements of installation of automatic restraints in new cars.~~

SECTION -3.-2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Transportation and the Insurance Commissioner jointly shall submit a report to the General Assembly no later