

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a party, witness, or counsel may not make reference to a seat belt during a trial of a civil action that involves property damage, personal injury, or death if the damage, injury, or death is not related to the design, manufacture, installation, supplying, or repair of a seat belt.

(3) (i) 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 impleaded 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.

(i) The Administration and the Maryland State Police shall establish prevention and education programs to encourage compliance with the provisions of this section.

(j) 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.

{(k) 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.}

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1991.

Approved May 24, 1991.

CHAPTER 467

(House Bill 209)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

FOR the purpose of providing that the Motor Vehicle Administration and the Secretary of Environment shall establish a vehicle emissions control program in accordance with the federal requirements of the Clean Air Act; providing that certain ~~waiver and~~ retest provisions conform to the minimum expenditure requirements under federal law; providing for the exemption of certain vehicles unless prohibited by federal law; altering certain waiver provisions; authorizing the Administration and Secretary under certain circumstances to create separate regions for a certain purpose or award the installation and operation of the inspection facilities to one