



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Wednesday, August 1 has two actualities dealing with congressional testimony on automobile safety systems as well as a story on proposed new bumper standards.

First, James E. Wilson, Associate National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator appeared today before the Senate Commerce Committee's hearings on occupant restraint systems. He spoke of the Department's effort to encourage mandatory seat belt legislation on the state level.

"This fall, we have called and are planning a national meeting to discuss this one particular issue, mandatory seat belt legislation and securing it in all of the States. It will be here in Washington. We hope that we can surface the problems that the police see in enforcement, the constitutionality problems, the public information problems that are needed to get state legislators to react and to take affirmative action"

Wilson also related a proposal which would involve state vehicle safety inspection in preventing tampering with safety seat belt systems. He said:

"We're asking the States, through their periodic motor vehicle inspection programs to inspect for safety related items that are mandated by the motor vehicle program standards and make them effective -- so they cannot be changed -- so that you will not pass an inspection if something is missing or inoperative."

Next, a story by a Department spokesman on proposed new bumper standards.

"The U.S. Department of Transportation is proposing a standard which would improve the resistance of bumpers on 1975-76 model cars to low-speed crash damage. This consumer-oriented action is the first under the new Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act and deals primarily with external damage to the vehicle which would detract from its appearance and re-sale value. It seeks to prevent distortion of sheetmetal, bumpers, grill and other trim as well as the chipping or flaking of paint and coatings in low-speed crashes."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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