



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 559

February Session, 2000

Substitute House Bill No. 5621

House of Representatives, April 12, 2000

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning School Bus Contracts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 (NEW) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Purchasing agent" means any official of the state or any political
3 subdivision thereof authorized to negotiate or enter into a student
4 transportation contract or agreement on behalf of the state or political
5 subdivision thereof;

6 (2) "Nonmanagement employees" means school bus drivers, school
7 bus monitors, school bus mechanics and school bus dispatchers; and

8 (3) "Economic aspects" means wages and benefits provided by the
9 incumbent school transportation contractor to its nonmanagement
10 employees, including, but not limited to, health care insurance and
11 pensions.

12 (b) On or after the effective date of this act, whenever the state or

13 any political subdivision thereof lets a contract for the purposes of
 14 transporting students, the purchasing agent shall identify all economic
 15 aspects of compensation paid to nonmanagement employees of the
 16 incumbent employer. Such aspects of compensation shall be included
 17 in the request for proposals distributed to all interested bidders. The
 18 successor contractor shall be required to offer employment to the
 19 incumbent nonmanagement employees at a level of wages and benefits
 20 no less than the level provided by the predecessor contractor.

21 (c) If a school transportation contractor is a party to a collective
 22 bargaining agreement with its nonmanagement employees, the state or
 23 any political subdivision thereof shall honor such contractual rights
 24 agreed to by the school transportation contractor and the bargaining
 25 unit.

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (b) grammatical changes were made and in Subsec. (c) "school transportation provider" was changed to "school transportation contractor" for consistency.

PD	Committee Vote:	Yea	11	Nay	5	JFS	C/R	ED
ED	Committee Vote:	Yea	16	Nay	14	JF	C/R	APP
APP	Committee Vote:	Yea	29	Nay	18	JFS-LCO		

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Education

Municipal Impact: Potential Cost, STATE MANDATE

Explanation

State and Municipal Impact:

This bill requires successor school bus contractors to offer wages and benefits at least equal to the levels of the previous contractor for non-management employees. This may result in higher costs to local and regional school districts and the state, as school transportation costs may be higher than if the subsequent contractor set wages and benefits.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5621

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill imposes a requirement on a company that wins a state or municipal contract to transport students that was previously held by another company. The successor company must offer certain employees of the previous company the same level of wages and benefits offered by that company. This requirement applies to the school bus drivers, school bus monitors, school bus mechanics, and school bus dispatchers (*i.e.*, non management employees) employed by the previous company.

The state or municipal purchasing agent that puts the contract out to bid must include these employees' wages and benefit levels in the requests for proposals distributed to all interested bidders. Benefit levels include health care insurance and pension benefits.

The bill requires the purchasing agents to honor any contractual rights agreed to by a company transporting students and the bargaining unit representing its non-management employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 11 Nay 5

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 16 Nay 14

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 29 Nay 18