



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 5621

LCO No. 1640

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:
(PD)

An Act Concerning School Bus Contracts.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) As used in sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act:

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 proposal distributed to all interested bidders. The
18 successor contractor shall be required to offer employment to the
19 incumbent nonmanagement employees a level of wages and benefits
20 no less than the level provided by the predecessor contractor.

21 (c) On or after the effective date of this act, whenever the state or
22 any political subdivision thereof changes school transportation
23 contractors, the successor contractor shall hire the existing
24 nonmanagement student transportation employees for not less than a
25 ninety-day period after the commencement of the contract. No
26 employee shall be denied employment unless the employer has just
27 cause to deny such employment. If the successful successor contractor
28 no longer requires the same number of school transportation
29 employees, the school transportation employees shall be chosen in
30 order of length of service.

31 Sec. 2. (NEW) If the successor contractor fails to pay at least the
32 equivalent level of wages and benefits to its nonmanagement student
33 transportation employees, or fails to offer employment for other than
34 just cause pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1 of this act, the contract
35 between the successor contractor and the state or any political
36 subdivisions shall be void and the contractor shall be prohibited from
37 bidding on any subsequent replacement contract.

38 Sec. 3. (NEW) If a school transportation contractor is a party to a
39 collective bargaining agreement with its nonmanagement employees,
40 the state or any political subdivision thereof shall honor such
41 contractual rights agreed to by the school transportation provider and
42 the bargaining unit.

Statement of Purpose:

To assure that public schools have uninterrupted school transportation and to maintain a sufficient number of quality school bus drivers available to meet Connecticut's school transportation needs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]