



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 185

LCO No. 1445



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL BUSES EQUIPPED WITH SEAT SAFETY BELTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-275d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

3 (a) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall administer a program to
4 provide funding to offset a portion of sales tax on the purchase of school
5 buses equipped with [3-point lap/shoulder] three-point lap and
6 shoulder seat safety belts installed during the manufacture of such
7 buses. [From July 1, 2011, to December 31, 2017, inclusive] On and after
8 July 1, 2025, a local or regional school district may submit an application
9 to the department, on a form provided by said department, which shall
10 include a proposed agreement between such district and a private
11 carrier under contract with such district for the provision of
12 transportation of school children. Such agreement shall require such
13 carrier to provide the district with at least one but not more than fifty
14 school buses, each of which shall be equipped with such seat belts, and
15 shall include a request by such carrier for funds in an amount equal to

16 fifty per cent of the sales tax paid by the carrier for the purchase of any
17 such bus purchased on or after July 1, [2011] 2025. Such agreement shall
18 be contingent upon approval of the application and the payment of such
19 amount by the department. The department shall make any such
20 payments with funds available from the school bus seat belt account
21 established pursuant to subsection (a) of section 14-50b.

22 (b) A school district participating in the program shall provide
23 written notice concerning the availability and proper use of such seat
24 belts to a parent or legal guardian of each student who will be
25 transported on such school bus. A school district shall instruct such
26 students on the proper use, fastening and unfastening of such seat belts.

27 (c) No local or regional school district, carrier with whom a local or
28 regional school district has contracted for the transportation of students,
29 or operator of a school bus shall be liable for damages for injury
30 resulting solely from a student's use, misuse or failure to use a seat
31 safety belt installed on a school bus used in the program established
32 under this section.

33 (d) During the [2018] 2030 regular session of the General Assembly,
34 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
35 cognizance of matters relating to transportation and education shall
36 conduct a joint public hearing on the level of participation in such
37 program and its effectiveness with respect to the use of seat belts. [Not
38 later than March 1, 2018, the joint standing committees shall make a
39 recommendation to the General Assembly concerning the continuation
40 of such program.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	14-275d

Statement of Purpose:

To reinstate the program to offset a portion of the sales tax on the purchase of school buses equipped with seat safety belts.

[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.]