



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 185

February Session, 2024



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 Section 14-275d of the general statutes is repealed and the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 safety
15 belts, and shall include a request by such carrier for funds in an amount
16 equal to fifty per cent of the sales tax paid by the carrier for the purchase
17 of any such bus purchased on or after July 1, [2011] 2025. Such
18 agreement shall be contingent upon approval of the application and the

19 payment of such amount by the department. The department shall make
20 any such payments with funds available from the school bus seat belt
21 account 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 safety 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 safety
27 belts.

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

34 (d) The Department of Motor Vehicles, in collaboration with the
35 Department of Education, shall inform local and regional school
36 districts annually of the program established pursuant to subsection (a)
37 of this section and how to apply to such program.

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

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

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsecs. (a) and (b), "safety" was added for accuracy and in Subsec. (e), "seat belts" was changed to "such seat safety belts" for accuracy.

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*