

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3759

DATE: March 28, 2006

Version: Second engrossment

Authors: Urdahl

Subject: School Pupil Transportation; Equipment and Licensing Standards

Analyst: Tim Strom

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill aligns Minnesota's school bus standards with a more recent set of school bus standards adopted by the National Congress on School Transportation. Current standards are based on the 2000 Standards. This bill requires school buses to meet the standards set forth in the document identified as the 2005 edition of the "National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures." By adopting the more recent standards, some of the state statutory exceptions and additions to the old standards can be eliminated or updated.

This bill also ensures that public school districts can withhold transportation services to nonpublic schools and charter schools that don't enforce school bus conduct standards for their students.

Section

- 1 Student training.** Requires that all students in grade 10 must receive training in the laws and procedures to follow when cars are near school buses.
- 2 Compliance by nonpublic and charter schools.** Requires all nonpublic and charter schools that have pupils transported by a public school district to comply with the district's bus conduct and student discipline policies while on the bus. Allows a public school district to withhold transportation services to a nonpublic or charter school that fails to follow school district bus policies.
- 3 Transportation definitions.** Allows a school district to designate a school day care facility as the pupil's home for purposes of providing to and from school transportation.

Section

- 4** **District reports.** Allows a school district that has actual, known costs for certain transportation services to use those actual costs instead of allocating costs for purposes of certain school district transportation reports.
- 5** **School bus.** Conforms the definition of a type A and type C school buses to the new national standards.
- 6** **Driver seat belt.** Clarifies that all school buses and Head Start buses manufactured after 1994 must have driver seat belts.
- 7** **National standards adopted.** Conforms the state's school bus equipment standards to the 2005 (instead of 2000) "National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures".
- 8** **Applicability.** Makes the new standards apply to school buses manufactured after December 31, 2006.
- 9** **Electrical system; battery.** Raises the minimum amperage of school bus generators and alternators to 130 amperes.
- 10** **Seat and crash barriers.** Requires all school bus seats to have a minimum mounting height of 15 inches and a seat back height of at least 20 inches above the seating point reference.
- 11** **Training.** Allows a school bus driver to receive at least eight hours of school bus in-service training as an alternative to being assessed for bus driver competencies.
- 12** **Annual evaluation and license verification.** Clarifies that certain annual activities must be completed by June 30 of each year. Limits the fees charged to members of a nonprofit bus drivers' trade association for accessing certain driver license information to not more than the fees charged to school districts for the same information.
- 13** **Repealer.** Repeals:
- 169.4502, subdivision 15 - oil filters and oil filtration systems;
 - 169.4503, subdivision 17 - number of mirrors on school buses;
 - 169.4503, subdivision 18 - overall width limits on school buses; and
 - 169.4503, subdivision 26 - crossing control arm automatic relays.