

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5323

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As of February 15, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to the regulation of private school buses.

**Brief Description:** Regulating private school buses.

**Sponsors:** Senator Owen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 2/1/95.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Staff:** Mary McLaughlin (786-7309)

**Background:** A private carrier bus is a vehicle with a seating capacity of 11 or more, used regularly to transport persons to organized agricultural, religious, charitable or other activities. A school bus is a vehicle used regularly to transport children to and from school or in connection with school activities; the vehicle must meet the standards established by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) in the "Specifications for School Buses."

Although private school buses meet the federal standard ("National Minimum Standards for School Buses"), a private school bus is classified as a "private carrier bus," rather than a "school bus." This is because the vehicle does not meet the more stringent school bus standards established by SPI. Because of this restriction, the words "school bus" cannot be displayed above front and rear windows of a private school bus.

A school bus and private carrier bus used as a school bus are exempt from annual vehicle registration (basic registration and MVET).

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** A private school bus may display the words "school bus" above the front and rear windows of the bus.

An existing private school bus need not comply with the requirements of the "Specifications for School Buses" published by SPI. However, private carrier buses must comply with the "National Minimum Standards for School Buses" established by the National Safety Council and adopted by the Washington State Patrol (WSP) by rule.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** A private school bus may display the words "school bus" as opposed to "private school bus."

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.