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HOUSE BILL 2639

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives McCabe, Santos, Johnson, Kochmar, Cody, Caldier, Muri, Kilduff, and McBride

Read first time 01/18/16. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the costs and benefits of requiring  
2 school bus safety devices on new school buses; and creating new  
3 sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that families  
6 put great trust in the school district and the state when sending  
7 their children to public schools. The legislature finds that six  
8 other states have enacted legislation to increase the safety of  
9 school bus riders through the installation of seat belts. The  
10 legislature further finds that given the mechanical and technological  
11 advances that are being made at such a rapid pace in so many fields,  
12 it is time that this state conduct a current review to determine  
13 whether Washington should join these other states and require that  
14 new school buses be equipped with seat belts. The legislature intends  
15 to direct a study to analyze the costs and the benefits of requiring  
16 that new school buses be equipped with seat belts, including the  
17 options available for school bus seat belts and safety harnesses, the  
18 potential benefits and detriments, and the financial costs.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The office of the superintendent of public  
20 instruction shall conduct a study to analyze the costs and the

1 benefits of requiring that each school bus, as defined in RCW  
2 46.04.521, purchased after December 2017, be equipped with seat  
3 belts, safety harnesses, or other approved restraint systems for all  
4 passengers. The study must analyze the potential benefits, as well as  
5 detriments, if any, the feasibility, and the costs of, and funding  
6 options for, such a requirement. The office of the superintendent of  
7 public instruction shall submit a report of the results of the study,  
8 including recommendations, to the appropriate committees of the  
9 legislature by October 15, 2016.

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