
HOUSE BILL 2387

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Kilduff, Ybarra, Leavitt, Fitzgibbon, Callan, Shewmake, Ormsby, Wylie, Doglio, and Pollet

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1 AN ACT Relating to limiting the exposure of public school
2 students and school personnel to diesel emissions from school bus
3 engines; adding a new section to chapter 28A.160 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that diesel
7 engine exhaust, as noted by the United States environmental
8 protection agency, is classified as carcinogenic to humans by the
9 international agency for research on cancer. This classification,
10 which links an increased risk of lung cancer with diesel exhaust, is
11 consistent with an environmental protection agency assessment that
12 concluded that diesel exhaust is likely to be carcinogenic to humans
13 by inhalation from environmental exposures. Furthermore, although
14 diesel exhaust poses health and occupational safety concerns for
15 adults, diesel emissions exposure can be especially harmful to
16 children because of their faster breathing rates and developing
17 respiratory systems. These concerns are especially noteworthy in
18 school buses and school environments because most school buses in
19 Washington use diesel engines.

20 The legislature recognizes also that the environmental protection
21 agency has asked school districts to voluntarily establish idling

1 restrictions for school buses, and that numerous states and
2 municipalities have adopted antiidling requirements for school and
3 other buses. The legislature finds that reasonable actions can be
4 taken by school districts to lessen student and school personnel
5 exposure to diesel exhaust by reducing unnecessary school bus idling
6 occurring at or near school facilities.

7 The legislature, therefore, intends to direct the superintendent
8 of public instruction to adopt rules to limit the exposure of
9 students and school personnel to diesel emissions from school bus
10 engines. The legislature intends for the rules to be reflective of a
11 statewide school bus fleet that is predominantly diesel powered, and
12 responsive to subsequent technological and fuel source advancements
13 that will result in fewer diesel emissions from school buses.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.160
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) By September 1, 2021, the office of the superintendent of
17 public instruction, in consultation with the department of ecology
18 and the department of health, shall adopt rules to limit the exposure
19 of students and school personnel to diesel emissions from school bus
20 engines. In developing and adopting the rules, the office of the
21 superintendent of public instruction shall solicit input from
22 interested parties, including persons with relevant expertise in
23 health and transportation issues. Rules adopted under this section
24 must:

25 (a) Establish limits on the idling of school bus engines while
26 the buses are on school property or are otherwise engaged in
27 providing student transportation, and may include other requirements
28 to lessen the exposure of students and school personnel to diesel
29 emissions from school bus engines;

30 (b) Include potential exemptions, including exemptions necessary
31 for weather conditions, health and safety issues, and vehicle
32 maintenance;

33 (c) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, require
34 district compliance by September 1, 2022;

35 (d) Be included in any version of the school bus drivers handbook
36 of the office of the superintendent of public instruction revised and
37 published after September 1, 2021; and

1 (e) Be revised periodically, especially in response to idle
2 reduction technologies and alternative fuel sources that are or may
3 be employed in school buses in Washington.

4 (2) School districts may adopt additional requirements to limit
5 the exposure of students and school personnel to diesel emissions
6 from school buses. School districts may also maintain, enforce, and
7 modify locally adopted requirements enacted before the effective date
8 of this section if those requirements: Substantially conform with and
9 do not diminish or otherwise impair rules adopted under this section;
10 or exceed requirements established by rule in accordance with this
11 section.

12 (3) For the purposes of this section, "school bus" or "bus" means
13 a diesel-powered motor vehicle that is used regularly to transport
14 children to and from school or in connection with school activities.
15 "School bus" or "bus" includes vehicles owned and operated by the
16 school district and private carrier buses operated as school buses,
17 but does not include buses operated by common carriers in urban
18 transportation of school children.

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