
SENATE BILL 6176

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Wilson, C., Hasegawa, Dhingra, Conway, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Nguyen, Randall, and Stanford

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1 AN ACT Relating to incorporating the costs of employee health
2 benefits into school district contracts for pupil transportation;
3 amending RCW 28A.160.140; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that school bus
6 drivers play a crucial role in ensuring students' safe passage to and
7 from school, preventing absences, and extending a positive school
8 climate beyond the classroom. By delivering this essential service,
9 school bus drivers provide a significant time and convenience benefit
10 to thousands of Washington families, remove cars from the road,
11 reduce overall emissions, and increase traffic safety. However, a
12 recent national survey revealed that ninety-four percent of bus
13 contractors experience driver shortages, with twenty-one percent
14 reporting their shortages as severe. With this act, the state of
15 Washington intends to encourage the retention of bus drivers who
16 provide vital services to local communities.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.160.140 and 1990 c 33 s 140 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) As a condition of entering into a pupil transportation
20 services contract with a private nongovernmental entity, each school

1 district shall engage in an open competitive process at least once
2 every five years. This requirement shall not be construed to prohibit
3 a district from entering into a pupil transportation services
4 contract of less than five years in duration with a district option
5 to renew, extend, or terminate the contract, if the district engages
6 in an open competitive process at least once every five years after
7 July 26, 1987.

8 (2) A school district may only enter into a pupil transportation
9 services contract with a nongovernmental entity that provides the
10 following to its employees:

11 (a) An employer health benefits contribution equal to the monthly
12 school employer funding rate for the state health benefits program
13 for school employees, less the retiree remittance for the public
14 employees' benefits board; and

15 (b) An amount equivalent to the plans 2 and 3 normal cost
16 employer contribution rate of the school employees' retirement
17 system, multiplied by the estimated salaries of the employees of the
18 private nongovernmental entity.

19 (3) As used in this section:

20 ~~((1))~~ (a) "Employee" means an employee that is subject to a
21 collective bargaining agreement who works sufficient compensated
22 hours for the nongovernmental entity performing services on the
23 contract with the school district to meet the eligibility
24 requirements for the state health benefits program for school
25 employees if the employee was directly employed by the school
26 district;

27 (b) "Open competitive process" means either one of the following,
28 at the choice of the school district:

29 ~~((a))~~ (i) The solicitation of bids or quotations and the award
30 of contracts under RCW 28A.335.190; or

31 ~~((b))~~ (ii) The competitive solicitation of proposals and their
32 evaluation consistent with the process and criteria recommended or
33 required, as the case may be, by the office of financial management
34 for state agency acquisition of personal service contractors;

35 ~~((2))~~ (c) "Pupil transportation services contract" means a
36 contract for the operation of privately owned or school district
37 owned school buses, and the services of drivers or operators,
38 management and supervisory personnel, and their support personnel
39 such as secretaries, dispatchers, and mechanics, or any combination

1 thereof, to provide students with transportation to and from school
2 on a regular basis; and

3 (~~(3)~~) (d) "School bus" means a motor vehicle as defined in RCW
4 46.04.521 and under the rules of the superintendent of public
5 instruction.

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