

SSB 5326 - S AMD TO S AMD (S-1966.2/21) **505**
By Senator Mullet

1 Beginning on page 1, line 12, after "severe." strike all material
2 through "formula." on page 3, line 39 and insert "The legislature
3 intends to determine causes of these bus driver shortages and
4 identify options to improve recruitment and retention of school bus
5 drivers.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By November 1, 2022, the joint
7 legislative audit and review committee must complete a report that
8 analyzes the wages and benefits of staff, including bus drivers, for
9 nongovernmental entities providing student transportation under
10 contract with Washington school districts. The report must compare
11 these wages and benefits with wages and benefits paid to similar
12 employees of school districts that do not contract for student
13 transportation.

14 (2) The report must also compare the level of turnover for school
15 bus drivers who work for nongovernmental entities with those working
16 for school districts.

17 (3) The report must identify options for reducing turnover for
18 school bus drivers who work for nongovernmental entities, including:

19 (a) By requiring school district contracts for contracted student
20 transportation to ensure health insurance and retirement benefits are
21 comparable to similar workers providing student transportation as
22 employees of school districts; and

23 (b) By requiring school district contracts for contracted student
24 transportation to ensure total compensation is increased sufficiently
25 so that employees can purchase an available silver plan on the
26 Washington healthplanfinder and employees receive a three percent
27 employer match for contributions to a retirement plan.

28 (4) The report must identify the costs, implementation
29 challenges, and contract compliance difficulties for the options
30 identified in subsection (3) of this section.

31 (5) This section expires November 1, 2023."

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1 On page 4, beginning on line 3, after "entities;" strike all
2 material through "section." on line 4 and insert "creating new
3 sections; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Strikes everything but the intent section and replaces it with a requirement that the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee analyze wages and benefits of staff of nongovernmental entities that provide student transportation. The report is due by November 1, 2022.

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