
HOUSE BILL 1118

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Mosbrucker, Orwall, Jacobsen, and Wylie

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1 AN ACT Relating to school bus safety; amending RCW 28A.160.010,
2 28A.160.205, 46.37.510, 46.63.180, and 43.84.092; adding a new
3 section to chapter 46.37 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.68
4 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.37
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 Beginning September 1, 2024, every school bus must, in addition
9 to any other equipment required under this chapter, be equipped with
10 an automated school bus safety camera. For purposes of this section,
11 "automated school bus safety camera" means a device that is affixed
12 to a school bus that is synchronized to automatically record one or
13 more sequenced photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images of
14 the rear of a vehicle at the time the vehicle is detected for an
15 infraction identified in RCW 46.61.370(1).

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.160.010 and 2020 c 339 s 3 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The operation of each local school district's student
19 transportation program is declared to be the responsibility of the
20 respective board of directors, and each board of directors shall

1 determine such matters as which individual students shall be
2 transported and what routes shall be most efficiently utilized except
3 as provided in RCW 28A.160.240. State moneys allocated to local
4 districts for student transportation shall be spent only for student
5 transportation activities, but need not be spent by the local
6 district in the same manner as calculated and allocated by the state.

7 (2)(a) A school district is authorized to provide for the
8 transportation of students enrolled in the school or schools of the
9 district both in the case of students who reside within the
10 boundaries of the district and of students who reside outside the
11 boundaries of the district.

12 (b)(i) School districts shall require passengers in school buses
13 equipped with seat belts to wear the belts, in a properly adjusted
14 manner, whenever the school bus is in motion.

15 (ii) School districts, school district employees, school district
16 volunteers, educational service districts, educational service
17 district employees, and commercial chartered bus services hired by a
18 district to provide for the transportation of students, including
19 employees of these providers, shall be held harmless from and not
20 liable for any criminal or civil liability arising under the
21 provisions of this subsection (2)(b).

22 (3) When children are transported from one school district to
23 another the board of directors of the respective districts may enter
24 into a written contract providing for a division of the cost of such
25 transportation between the districts.

26 (4) School districts may use school buses and drivers hired by
27 the district or commercial chartered bus service for the
28 transportation of school children and the school employees necessary
29 for their supervision to and from any school activities within or
30 without the school district during or after school hours and whether
31 or not a required school activity, so long as the school board has
32 officially designated it as a school activity. For any
33 extracurricular uses, the school board shall charge an amount
34 sufficient to reimburse the district for its cost.

35 (5) In addition to the right to contract for the use of buses
36 provided in RCW 28A.160.080 and 28A.160.090, any school district may
37 contract to furnish the use of school buses of that district to other
38 users who are engaged in conducting an educational or recreational
39 program supported wholly or in part by tax funds or programs for
40 elderly persons at times when those buses are not needed by that

1 district and under such terms as will fully reimburse such school
2 district for all costs related or incident thereto: PROVIDED,
3 HOWEVER, That no such use of school district buses shall be permitted
4 except where other public or private transportation certificated or
5 licensed by the Washington utilities and transportation commission is
6 not reasonably available to the user: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no user
7 shall be required to accept any charter bus for services which the
8 user believes might place the health or safety of the children or
9 elderly persons in jeopardy.

10 (6) Whenever any persons are transported by the school district
11 in its own motor vehicles and by its own employees, the board may
12 provide insurance to protect the district against loss, whether by
13 reason of theft, fire or property damage to the motor vehicle or by
14 reason of liability of the district to persons from the operation of
15 such motor vehicle.

16 (7) The board may provide insurance by contract purchase for
17 payment of hospital and medical expenses for the benefit of persons
18 injured while they are on, getting on, or getting off any vehicles
19 enumerated herein without respect to any fault or liability on the
20 part of the school district or operator. This insurance may be
21 provided without cost to the persons notwithstanding the provisions
22 of RCW 28A.400.350.

23 (8) If the transportation of children or elderly persons is
24 arranged for by contract of the district with some person, the board
25 may require such contractor to procure such insurance as the board
26 deems advisable.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.160.205 and 2007 c 348 s 101 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
30 implement a school bus replacement incentive program. As part of the
31 program, the office shall fund up to ten percent of the cost of a new
32 (~~(2007 or later model year school bus that meets the 2007 federal~~
33 ~~motor vehicle emission control standards and is purchased by a school~~
34 ~~district by no later than June 30, 2009)) school bus, provided that
35 the new bus is replacing a 1994 or older school bus or the oldest bus
36 in the school district's fleet. Replacement of the oldest buses must
37 be given highest priority. Such incentive funds received under this
38 subsection must be deposited into the school district's
39 transportation vehicle fund established in RCW 28A.160.130.~~

1 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
2 ensure that buses being replaced through this program are surplused
3 under RCW 28A.335.180. As part of the surplus process, school
4 districts must provide written documentation to the office of the
5 superintendent of public instruction demonstrating that buses being
6 replaced are scrapped and not purchased for road use. The
7 documentation must include bus make, model, year, vehicle
8 identification number, engine make, engine serial number, and salvage
9 yard receipts; and must demonstrate that the engine and body of the
10 bus being replaced has been rendered unusable.

11 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
12 adopt any rules necessary for the implementation of chapter 348, Laws
13 of 2007 and this act.

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.37.510 and 1987 c 330 s 729 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) No person may sell any automobile manufactured or assembled
17 after January 1, 1964, nor may any owner cause such vehicle to be
18 registered thereafter under the provisions of chapter 46.12 RCW
19 unless such motor car or automobile is equipped with automobile seat
20 belts installed for use on the front seats thereof which are of a
21 type and installed in a manner conforming to rules adopted by the
22 state patrol. Where registration is for transfer from an out-of-state
23 license, the applicant shall be informed of this section by the
24 issuing agent and has thirty days to comply. The state patrol shall
25 adopt and enforce standards as to what constitutes adequate and safe
26 seat belts and for the fastening and installation of them. Such
27 standards shall not be below those specified as minimum requirements
28 by the Society of Automotive Engineers on June 13, 1963.

29 (2) Every passenger car manufactured or assembled after January
30 1, 1965, shall be equipped with at least two lap-type safety belt
31 assemblies for use in the front seating positions.

32 (3) Every passenger car manufactured or assembled after January
33 1, 1968, shall be equipped with a lap-type safety belt assembly for
34 each permanent passenger seating position. This requirement shall not
35 apply to police vehicles.

36 (4) Every passenger car manufactured or assembled after January
37 1, 1968, shall be equipped with at least two shoulder harness-type
38 safety belt assemblies for use in the front seating positions.

1 (5) Every school bus manufactured or assembled after September 1,
2 2024, shall be equipped with a shoulder harness-type safety belt
3 assembly for each passenger position. The superintendent of public
4 instruction shall include specifications for the belt assembly in the
5 competitive quote process required under RCW 28A.160.195.

6 (6) The state patrol shall excuse specified types of motor
7 vehicles or seating positions within any motor vehicle from the
8 requirements imposed by subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section
9 when compliance would be impractical.

10 ~~((+6))~~ (7) No person may distribute, have for sale, offer for
11 sale, or sell any safety belt or shoulder harness for use in motor
12 vehicles unless it meets current minimum standards and specifications
13 conforming to rules adopted by the state patrol or the United States
14 department of transportation.

15 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.63.180 and 2013 c 306 s 716 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) By September 1, 2024, school districts ((may)) must install
18 and operate automated school bus safety cameras as defined in section
19 1 of this act on school buses to be used for the detection of
20 violations of RCW 46.61.370(1) ((if the use of the cameras is
21 approved by a vote of the school district board of directors)).
22 School districts are not required to take school buses out of service
23 if the ~~((buses are not equipped with))~~ automated school bus safety
24 cameras ~~((or functional automated safety cameras))~~ are nonfunctional;
25 however, each school district must ensure that the nonfunctional
26 camera is returned to functioning condition as soon as practicable.
27 Further, school districts shall be held harmless from and not liable
28 for any criminal or civil liability arising under the provisions of
29 this section.

30 (a) Automated school bus safety cameras may only take pictures of
31 the vehicle and vehicle license plate and only while an infraction is
32 occurring. The picture must not reveal the face of the driver or of
33 passengers in the vehicle.

34 (b) A notice of infraction must be mailed to the registered owner
35 of the vehicle within fourteen days of the violation, or to the
36 renter of a vehicle within fourteen days of establishing the renter's
37 name and address under subsection (2)(a)(i) of this section. The law
38 enforcement officer issuing the notice of infraction shall include a
39 certificate or facsimile of the notice, based upon inspection of

1 photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images produced by an
2 automated school bus safety camera, stating the facts supporting the
3 notice of infraction. This certificate or facsimile is prima facie
4 evidence of the facts contained in it and is admissible in a
5 proceeding charging a violation under this chapter. The photographs,
6 microphotographs, or electronic images evidencing the violation must
7 be available for inspection and admission into evidence in a
8 proceeding to adjudicate the liability for the infraction. A person
9 receiving a notice of infraction based on evidence detected by an
10 automated school bus safety camera may respond to the notice by mail.

11 (c) The registered owner of a vehicle is responsible for an
12 infraction under RCW 46.63.030(1)(e) unless the registered owner
13 overcomes the presumption in RCW 46.63.075, or, in the case of a
14 rental car business, satisfies the conditions under subsection (2) of
15 this section. If appropriate under the circumstances, a renter
16 identified under subsection (2)(a)(i) of this section is responsible
17 for an infraction.

18 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all photographs,
19 microphotographs, or electronic images prepared under this section
20 are for the exclusive use of law enforcement in the discharge of
21 duties under this section and are not open to the public and may not
22 be used in a court in a pending action or proceeding unless the
23 action or proceeding relates to a violation under this section. No
24 photograph, microphotograph, or electronic image may be used for any
25 purpose other than enforcement of violations under this section nor
26 retained longer than necessary to enforce this section.

27 (e) (~~(If)~~) When a school district installs and operates an
28 automated school bus safety camera under this section, the
29 compensation paid to the manufacturer or vendor of the equipment used
30 must be based only upon the value of the equipment and services
31 provided or rendered in support of the system, and may not be based
32 upon a portion of the fine or civil penalty imposed or the revenue
33 generated by the equipment. Further, any repair, replacement, or
34 administrative work costs related to installing or repairing
35 automated school bus safety cameras must be solely paid for by the
36 manufacturer or vendor of the cameras. (~~(Before entering)~~) When a
37 school district enters into a contract with the manufacturer or
38 vendor of the equipment used under this subsection (1)(e), the school
39 district must follow the competitive bid process as outlined in RCW
40 28A.335.190(1).

1 (f) Except as provided otherwise in this subsection (1)(f) and
2 subsections (3) and (4) of this section, any revenue collected from
3 infractions detected through the use of automated school bus safety
4 cameras, less the administration and operating costs of the cameras,
5 must be remitted to school districts for school zone safety projects
6 as determined by the school district using the automated school bus
7 safety cameras. The administration and operating costs of the cameras
8 includes infraction enforcement and processing costs that are
9 incurred by local law enforcement or local courts. During the
10 2013-2015 fiscal biennium, the infraction revenue may also be used
11 for school bus safety projects by those school districts eligible to
12 apply for funding from the school zone safety account appropriation
13 in section 201, chapter 306, Laws of 2013.

14 (2)(a) If the registered owner of the vehicle is a rental car
15 business, the law enforcement agency shall, before a notice of
16 infraction is issued under this section, provide a written notice to
17 the rental car business that a notice of infraction may be issued to
18 the rental car business if the rental car business does not, within
19 eighteen days of receiving the written notice, provide to the issuing
20 agency by return mail:

21 (i) A statement under oath stating the name and known mailing
22 address of the individual driving or renting the vehicle when the
23 infraction occurred;

24 (ii) A statement under oath that the business is unable to
25 determine who was driving or renting the vehicle at the time the
26 infraction occurred because the vehicle was stolen at the time of the
27 infraction. A statement provided under this subsection (2)(a)(ii)
28 must be accompanied by a copy of a filed police report regarding the
29 vehicle theft; or

30 (iii) In lieu of identifying the vehicle operator, the rental car
31 business may pay the applicable penalty.

32 (b) Timely mailing of a statement under this subsection to the
33 issuing law enforcement agency relieves a rental car business of any
34 liability under this chapter for the notice of infraction.

35 (3) (~~For purposes of this section, "automated school bus safety~~
36 ~~camera" means a device that is affixed to a school bus that is~~
37 ~~synchronized to automatically record one or more sequenced~~
38 ~~photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images of the rear of a~~
39 ~~vehicle at the time the vehicle is detected for an infraction~~
40 ~~identified in RCW 46.61.370(1).~~) Any school district that is under a

1 safety camera system contract before the effective date of this
2 section must continue to receive funds from use of the safety camera
3 systems that the school district has installed and may transfer the
4 district's share of the funds to the district's transportation
5 vehicle fund established under RCW 28A.160.130 in addition to using
6 the funds for school zone safety projects.

7 (4) For any school district that installs automated school bus
8 safety cameras on or after the effective date of this section, any
9 revenue collected from infractions detected through the use of
10 automated school bus safety cameras, less the administration and
11 operating costs of the cameras, must be distributed as follows: (a)
12 One-third to the school bus safety account created in section 6 of
13 this act; (b) one-third to the law enforcement agency issuing the
14 infraction; and (c) one-third to the court processing the infraction.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 46.68
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 The school bus safety account is created in the state treasury.
18 All receipts from RCW 46.63.180(4)(a) must be deposited into the
19 account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation.
20 Between the effective date of this section and July 31, 2028: The
21 first ten million dollars in expenditures from the account for each
22 year must be transferred to the general fund to pay for the cost of
23 school bus safety belt systems; and any remaining expenditures must
24 be used for the school bus replacement incentives under RCW
25 28A.160.205. Beginning August 1, 2028, expenditures from the account
26 may only be used for school bus incentives under RCW 28A.160.205.

27 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.84.092 and 2022 c 182 s 404 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the state
30 treasury shall be deposited to the treasury income account, which
31 account is hereby established in the state treasury.

32 (2) The treasury income account shall be utilized to pay or
33 receive funds associated with federal programs as required by the
34 federal cash management improvement act of 1990. The treasury income
35 account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no
36 appropriation is required for refunds or allocations of interest
37 earnings required by the cash management improvement act. Refunds of
38 interest to the federal treasury required under the cash management

1 improvement act fall under RCW 43.88.180 and shall not require
2 appropriation. The office of financial management shall determine the
3 amounts due to or from the federal government pursuant to the cash
4 management improvement act. The office of financial management may
5 direct transfers of funds between accounts as deemed necessary to
6 implement the provisions of the cash management improvement act, and
7 this subsection. Refunds or allocations shall occur prior to the
8 distributions of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this
9 section.

10 (3) Except for the provisions of RCW 43.84.160, the treasury
11 income account may be utilized for the payment of purchased banking
12 services on behalf of treasury funds including, but not limited to,
13 depository, safekeeping, and disbursement functions for the state
14 treasury and affected state agencies. The treasury income account is
15 subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is
16 required for payments to financial institutions. Payments shall occur
17 prior to distribution of earnings set forth in subsection (4) of this
18 section.

19 (4) Monthly, the state treasurer shall distribute the earnings
20 credited to the treasury income account. The state treasurer shall
21 credit the general fund with all the earnings credited to the
22 treasury income account except:

23 (a) The following accounts and funds shall receive their
24 proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's and fund's
25 average daily balance for the period: The abandoned recreational
26 vehicle disposal account, the aeronautics account, the Alaskan Way
27 viaduct replacement project account, the brownfield redevelopment
28 trust fund account, the budget stabilization account, the capital
29 vessel replacement account, the capitol building construction
30 account, the Central Washington University capital projects account,
31 the charitable, educational, penal and reformatory institutions
32 account, the Chehalis basin account, the Chehalis basin taxable
33 account, the cleanup settlement account, the climate active
34 transportation account, the climate transit programs account, the
35 Columbia river basin water supply development account, the Columbia
36 river basin taxable bond water supply development account, the
37 Columbia river basin water supply revenue recovery account, the
38 common school construction fund, the community forest trust account,
39 the connecting Washington account, the county arterial preservation
40 account, the county criminal justice assistance account, the deferred

1 compensation administrative account, the deferred compensation
2 principal account, the department of licensing services account, the
3 department of retirement systems expense account, the developmental
4 disabilities community services account, the diesel idle reduction
5 account, the drinking water assistance account, the administrative
6 subaccount of the drinking water assistance account, the early
7 learning facilities development account, the early learning
8 facilities revolving account, the Eastern Washington University
9 capital projects account, the education construction fund, the
10 education legacy trust account, the election account, the electric
11 vehicle account, the energy freedom account, the energy recovery act
12 account, the essential rail assistance account, The Evergreen State
13 College capital projects account, the fair start for kids account,
14 the ferry bond retirement fund, the fish, wildlife, and conservation
15 account, the freight mobility investment account, the freight
16 mobility multimodal account, the grade crossing protective fund, the
17 public health services account, the state higher education
18 construction account, the higher education construction account, the
19 higher education retirement plan supplemental benefit fund, the
20 highway bond retirement fund, the highway infrastructure account, the
21 highway safety fund, the hospital safety net assessment fund, the
22 Interstate 405 and state route number 167 express toll lanes account,
23 the judges' retirement account, the judicial retirement
24 administrative account, the judicial retirement principal account,
25 the limited fish and wildlife account, the local leasehold excise tax
26 account, the local real estate excise tax account, the local sales
27 and use tax account, the marine resources stewardship trust account,
28 the medical aid account, the money-purchase retirement savings
29 administrative account, the money-purchase retirement savings
30 principal account, the motor vehicle fund, the motorcycle safety
31 education account, the move ahead WA account, the move ahead WA
32 flexible account, the multimodal transportation account, the multiuse
33 roadway safety account, the municipal criminal justice assistance
34 account, the oyster reserve land account, the pension funding
35 stabilization account, the perpetual surveillance and maintenance
36 account, the pilotage account, the pollution liability insurance
37 agency underground storage tank revolving account, the public
38 employees' retirement system plan 1 account, the public employees'
39 retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the public
40 facilities construction loan revolving account, the public health

1 supplemental account, the public works assistance account, the Puget
2 Sound capital construction account, the Puget Sound ferry operations
3 account, the Puget Sound Gateway facility account, the Puget Sound
4 taxpayer accountability account, the real estate appraiser commission
5 account, the recreational vehicle account, the regional mobility
6 grant program account, the resource management cost account, the
7 rural arterial trust account, the rural mobility grant program
8 account, the rural Washington loan fund, the school bus safety
9 account, the sexual assault prevention and response account, the site
10 closure account, the skilled nursing facility safety net trust fund,
11 the small city pavement and sidewalk account, the special category C
12 account, the special wildlife account, the state investment board
13 expense account, the state investment board commingled trust fund
14 accounts, the state patrol highway account, the state reclamation
15 revolving account, the state route number 520 civil penalties
16 account, the state route number 520 corridor account, the statewide
17 broadband account, the statewide tourism marketing account, the
18 supplemental pension account, the Tacoma Narrows toll bridge account,
19 the teachers' retirement system plan 1 account, the teachers'
20 retirement system combined plan 2 and plan 3 account, the tobacco
21 prevention and control account, the tobacco settlement account, the
22 toll facility bond retirement account, the transportation 2003
23 account (nickel account), the transportation equipment fund, the
24 transportation future funding program account, the transportation
25 improvement account, the transportation improvement board bond
26 retirement account, the transportation infrastructure account, the
27 transportation partnership account, the traumatic brain injury
28 account, the University of Washington bond retirement fund, the
29 University of Washington building account, the voluntary cleanup
30 account, the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' relief and
31 pension principal fund, the volunteer firefighters' and reserve
32 officers' administrative fund, the vulnerable roadway user education
33 account, the Washington judicial retirement system account, the
34 Washington law enforcement officers' and firefighters' system plan 1
35 retirement account, the Washington law enforcement officers' and
36 firefighters' system plan 2 retirement account, the Washington public
37 safety employees' plan 2 retirement account, the Washington school
38 employees' retirement system combined plan 2 and 3 account, the
39 Washington state patrol retirement account, the Washington State
40 University building account, the Washington State University bond

1 retirement fund, the water pollution control revolving administration
2 account, the water pollution control revolving fund, the Western
3 Washington University capital projects account, the Yakima integrated
4 plan implementation account, the Yakima integrated plan
5 implementation revenue recovery account, and the Yakima integrated
6 plan implementation taxable bond account. Earnings derived from
7 investing balances of the agricultural permanent fund, the normal
8 school permanent fund, the permanent common school fund, the
9 scientific permanent fund, and the state university permanent fund
10 shall be allocated to their respective beneficiary accounts.

11 (b) Any state agency that has independent authority over accounts
12 or funds not statutorily required to be held in the state treasury
13 that deposits funds into a fund or account in the state treasury
14 pursuant to an agreement with the office of the state treasurer shall
15 receive its proportionate share of earnings based upon each account's
16 or fund's average daily balance for the period.

17 (5) In conformance with Article II, section 37 of the state
18 Constitution, no treasury accounts or funds shall be allocated
19 earnings without the specific affirmative directive of this section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act takes effect August 1, 2024.

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