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**SENATE BILL 6031**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Braun, Dozier, Kuderer, Rivers, and Schoesler

Prefiled 01/05/24. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to modifying the student transportation  
2 allocation to accommodate multiple vehicle types for transporting  
3 students; and amending RCW 28A.160.150, 28A.160.170, and 28A.160.180.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.160.150 and 2009 c 548 s 304 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Funds allocated for transportation costs, except for funds  
8 provided for transportation and transportation services to and from  
9 school shall be in addition to the basic education allocation. The  
10 distribution formula developed in RCW 28A.160.150 through 28A.160.180  
11 shall be for allocation purposes only and shall not be construed as  
12 mandating specific levels of pupil transportation services by local  
13 districts nor the type of vehicle to be used for pupil  
14 transportation. School districts are encouraged to use the vehicle  
15 type deemed by a district to be the safest and most cost-effective  
16 manner of transporting its students, including using school buses and  
17 vans, and may use the student transportation allocation accordingly.  
18 Operating costs as determined under RCW 28A.160.150 through  
19 28A.160.180 shall be funded at (~~one hundred~~) 100 percent or as  
20 close thereto as reasonably possible for transportation of an  
21 eligible student to and from school as defined in RCW 28A.160.160(3).

1 In addition, funding shall be provided for transportation services  
2 for students living within the walk area as determined under RCW  
3 28A.160.160(5).

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.160.170 and 2021 c 234 s 3 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Each district shall submit three times each year to the  
7 superintendent of public instruction during October, February, and  
8 May of each year a report containing the following:

9 (1)(a) The number of eligible students transported to and from  
10 school as provided for in RCW 28A.160.150, along with identification  
11 of stop locations and school locations, and (b) the number of miles  
12 driven per vehicle type for pupil transportation services as  
13 authorized in RCW 28A.160.150 the previous school year; and

14 (2) Other operational data and descriptions as required by the  
15 superintendent to determine allocation requirements for each  
16 district. The superintendent shall require that districts separate  
17 the costs of operating the program for the transportation of eligible  
18 students to and from school as defined by RCW 28A.160.160(3), non-to-  
19 and-from-school pupil transportation costs, and costs to provide  
20 expanded services under RCW 28A.160.185(1) in the annual financial  
21 statement. The cost, quantity, and type of all fuel purchased by  
22 school districts for use in to-and-from-school transportation shall  
23 be included in the annual financial statement.

24 Each district shall submit the information required in this  
25 section on a timely basis as a condition of the continuing receipt of  
26 school transportation moneys.

27 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.160.180 and 2009 c 548 s 307 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 Each district's annual student transportation allocation shall be  
30 determined by the superintendent of public instruction in the  
31 following manner:

32 (1) The superintendent shall annually calculate the  
33 transportation allocation for those services provided for in RCW  
34 28A.160.150, inclusive of all vehicle types used. The allocation  
35 formula may be adjusted to include such additional differential  
36 factors as basic and special passenger counts as defined by the  
37 superintendent of public instruction, average distance to school, and  
38 number of locations served.

1 (2) The allocation shall be based on a regression analysis of the  
2 number of basic and special students transported and as many other  
3 site characteristics that are identified as being statistically  
4 significant.

5 (3) The transportation allocation for transporting students in  
6 district-owned passenger cars, as defined in RCW 46.04.382, pursuant  
7 to RCW 28A.160.010 for services provided for in RCW 28A.160.150 if a  
8 school district deems it advisable to use such vehicles after the  
9 school district board of directors has considered the safety of the  
10 students being transported as well as the economy of utilizing a  
11 district-owned passenger car in lieu of a school bus (~~is the private~~  
12 ~~vehicle reimbursement rate in effect on September 1st of each school~~  
13 ~~year~~) must be included in the overall determination of the  
14 district's annual student transportation allocation. Students  
15 transported in district-owned passenger cars must be included in the  
16 corresponding basic or special passenger counts, average distance to  
17 school, and number of locations served.

18 (4) Prior to June 1st of each year the superintendent shall  
19 submit to the office of financial management, and the education and  
20 fiscal committees of the legislature, a report outlining the  
21 methodology and rationale used in determining the statistical  
22 coefficients for each site characteristic used to determine the  
23 allocation for the following year.

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