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SENATE BILL 5780

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senator Gildon

1 AN ACT Relating to reimbursement payments for replacing student  
2 transportation vehicles; and amending RCW 28A.160.200 and  
3 28A.160.170.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.160.200 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 10 s 2 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) (a) The superintendent shall develop a reimbursement schedule  
8 to pay districts for the cost of student transportation vehicles  
9 (~~(purchased after September 1, 1982)~~). While it is the responsibility  
10 of each district to select and pay for each student transportation  
11 vehicle purchased by the district, each district shall be paid a sum  
12 based on the category of vehicle, anticipated lifetime of vehicles of  
13 this category, and state reimbursement rate for the category plus  
14 inflation as recognized by the reimbursement schedule established in  
15 this section as set by the superintendent.

16 (b) Categories and reimbursement rates of vehicles shall be those  
17 established under RCW 28A.160.195. The accumulated value of the  
18 payments and the potential investment return thereon shall be  
19 designed to be equal to the replacement cost of the vehicle less its  
20 salvage value at the end of its anticipated lifetime. The  
21 superintendent shall revise at least annually the reimbursement

1 payments based on the current and anticipated future cost of  
2 comparable categories of transportation equipment.

3 (c) If a school district is awarded a local, state, or federal  
4 grant or rebate to replace a student transportation vehicle, the  
5 superintendent shall reduce the district's reimbursement payments to  
6 ensure that duplicative funding is not provided to replace the same  
7 vehicle. A reduction made pursuant to this subsection (1)(c) may not  
8 exceed the total replacement cost of the vehicle being replaced, less  
9 its salvage value.

10 (d) Reimbursements to school districts for approved  
11 transportation equipment shall be placed in a separate transportation  
12 vehicle fund established for each school district under RCW  
13 28A.160.130. However, educational service districts providing student  
14 transportation services pursuant to RCW 28A.310.180(4) and receiving  
15 moneys generated pursuant to this section shall establish and  
16 maintain a separate transportation vehicle account in the educational  
17 service district's general expense fund for the purposes and subject  
18 to the conditions under RCW 28A.160.130 and 28A.320.300.

19 (2) To the extent possible, districts shall operate vehicles  
20 acquired under this section not less than the number of years or  
21 useful lifetime now, or hereafter, assigned to the category of  
22 vehicles by the superintendent. School districts shall properly  
23 maintain the transportation equipment acquired under the provisions  
24 of this section, in accordance with rules established by the office  
25 of the superintendent of public instruction. If a district fails to  
26 follow generally accepted standards of maintenance and operation, the  
27 superintendent of public instruction shall penalize the district by  
28 deducting from future reimbursements under this section an amount  
29 equal to the original cost of the vehicle multiplied by the fraction  
30 of the useful lifetime or miles the vehicle failed to operate.

31 (3) The superintendent shall annually develop a depreciation  
32 schedule to recognize the cost of depreciation to districts  
33 contracting with private carriers for student transportation.  
34 Payments on this schedule shall be a straight line depreciation based  
35 on the original cost of the appropriate category of vehicle.

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

1       (1) Each district shall submit three times each year to the  
2 superintendent of public instruction during October, February, and  
3 May of each year a report containing the following:

4       ~~((1))~~ (a) (i) The number of eligible students transported to and  
5 from school as provided for in RCW 28A.160.150, along with  
6 identification of stop locations and school locations, and ~~((b))~~  
7 (ii) the number of miles driven for pupil transportation services as  
8 authorized in RCW 28A.160.150 the previous school year; ~~(and~~

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

19       (c) The amount of any local, state, or federal grant or rebate  
20 awarded to the school district to replace a student transportation  
21 vehicle.

22       (2) Each district shall submit the information required in this  
23 section on a timely basis as a condition of the continuing receipt of  
24 school transportation moneys.

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