

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6773

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules requiring the inclusion of new safety equipment in school buses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Mr. COHEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules requiring the inclusion of new safety equipment in school buses, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “School Bus Safety Act
5 of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) 3-POINT SAFETY BELT.—The term “3-point
2 safety belt” has the meaning given the term “Type
3 2 seat belt assembly” in section 571.209 of title 49,
4 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the
5 date of enactment of this Act).

6 (2) AUTOMATIC EMERGENCY BRAKING SYS-
7 TEM.—The term “automatic emergency braking sys-
8 tem” means a crash avoidance system installed and
9 operational in a vehicle that consists of—

10 (A) a forward collision warning function—

11 (i) to detect vehicles or objects ahead
12 of the vehicle; and

13 (ii) to alert the operator of the vehicle
14 of an impending collision; and

15 (B) a crash-imminent braking function to
16 provide automatic braking when forward-look-
17 ing sensors of the vehicle indicate that—

18 (i) a crash is imminent; and

19 (ii) the operator of vehicle is not re-
20 acting in a timely or appropriate manner.

21 (3) EVENT DATA RECORDER.—The term “event
22 data recorder” has the meaning given the term in
23 section 563.5(b) of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
24 tions (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
25 Act).

1 (4) SCHOOL BUS.—The term “school bus” has
2 the meaning given the term “schoolbus” in section
3 30125(a) of title 49, United States Code.

4 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Transportation.

6 **SEC. 3. SCHOOL BUS SAFETY.**

7 (a) SEAT BELT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1
8 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
9 shall issue rules prescribing or amending motor vehicle
10 safety standards under chapter 301 of title 49, United
11 States Code, to require school buses with a gross vehicle
12 weight rating of greater than 10,000 pounds to be
13 equipped with a 3-point safety belt at each designated
14 seating position.

15 (b) OTHER SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.—
16 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
17 Act, the Secretary shall issue rules—

18 (1) prescribing or amending motor vehicle safe-
19 ty standards under chapter 301 of title 49, United
20 States Code, to require school buses to be equipped
21 with—

22 (A) an automatic emergency braking sys-
23 tem;

24 (B) an event data recorder; and

1 (C) an electronic stability control system
2 (as defined in section 571.136 of title 49, Code
3 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date
4 of enactment of this Act)); and

5 (2) amending part 383 of title 49, Code of Fed-
6 eral Regulations, to require not less than 30 hours
7 of behind-the-wheel instruction for operators of
8 school buses, which shall be accrued on public roads.

9 (c) OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA.—Not later than 1
10 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
11 trator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
12 and the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Adminis-
13 tration shall complete the rulemaking process and publish
14 a final rule with respect to the advance notice of proposed
15 rulemaking entitled “Evaluation of Safety Sensitive Per-
16 sonnel for Moderate-to-Severe Obstructive Sleep Apnea”
17 (81 Fed. Reg. 12642 (March 10, 2016)).

18 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The standards prescribed or
19 amendments made pursuant to subsections (a) and (b)
20 shall apply with respect to school buses manufactured in,
21 or imported into, the United States on or after the date
22 that is 1 year after the date on which the Secretary issues
23 the rules required under the applicable subsection.

24 **SEC. 4. STUDIES.**

25 (a) MOTION-ACTIVATED DETECTION SYSTEMS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
3 of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-
4 tion (referred to in this section as the “Adminis-
5 trator”) shall complete a study with respect to the
6 benefits of requiring school buses manufactured in,
7 or imported into, the United States to be equipped
8 with a motion-activated detection system that is ca-
9 pable of—

10 (A) detecting pedestrians located near the
11 exterior of the school bus; and

12 (B) alerting the operator of the school bus
13 of the pedestrians described in subparagraph
14 (A).

15 (2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after
16 the date on which the Administrator completes the
17 study under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall
18 issue rules requiring school buses manufactured in,
19 or imported into, the United States to effectuate
20 that requirement.

21 (b) SAFETY BELT ALERT.—Not later than 2 years
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
23 shall complete a study on the benefits of requiring school
24 buses manufactured in, or imported into, the United
25 States to be equipped with a system to alert the operator

1 of the school bus if a passenger in the school bus is not
2 wearing a 3-point safety belt equipped on the school bus.

3 (c) RETROFITTING.—Not later than 2 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
5 complete a study with respect to the benefits of requiring
6 all school buses operating in the United States to be
7 equipped with a 3-point safety belt at each designated
8 seating position.

9 **SEC. 5. SAFETY BELT GRANT PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
12 tation shall establish a grant program to provide grants
13 to States to make subgrants to local educational agen-
14 cies—

15 (1) to assist the local educational agencies in
16 purchasing school buses equipped with 3-point safety
17 belts at each designated seating position; and

18 (2) to assist the local educational agencies in
19 modifying school buses already owned by the local
20 educational agency to be equipped with 3-point safe-
21 ty belts at each designated seating position.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
24 essary to carry out this section.

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