

SENATE FILE NO. SF0072

School finance recalibration-transportation.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on School Finance
Recalibration

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school finance; requiring the department
2 of education to evaluate and provide recommendations on
3 fiscal efficiencies in transportation funding; requiring
4 reports; and providing for an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.**

9

10 (a) The legislature recognizes the importance
11 effective transportation plays in ensuring all students in
12 the state have an equal opportunity to receive a quality
13 education. The legislature also recognizes the state has an
14 interest in ensuring public school transportation is funded
15 in a cost effective manner. The department of education

1 shall evaluate the transportation funding system in place
2 prior to the enactment of 2017 Wyoming Session Laws,
3 Chapter 205, identify fiscal efficiencies within the system
4 and provide recommendations for how to implement those
5 efficiencies through statute or rule. In this study, the
6 department shall evaluate and provide recommendations on:

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8 (i) Existing department rules on minimum student
9 walking distances;

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11 (ii) Existing department rules relating to
12 physical barriers and safety hazards within walking zones.
13 The department shall evaluate school districts' methods of
14 evaluating physical barriers and safety hazards and school
15 districts' methods for confirming those designations;

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17 (iii) The sharing of transportation personnel
18 and services among school districts, including department
19 rules on sharing transportation services;

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21 (iv) The use of contracts with parents and
22 guardians to provide compensation for transportation of
23 students;

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2 (v) Existing department rules on what a school
3 district must demonstrate to the department in order to
4 increase the size of its bus fleet. The department shall
5 consider:

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7 (A) How the rules could be developed to
8 enhance school bus routing efficiency; and

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10 (B) How the rules could be developed to
11 enhance transportation efficiencies by using buses with
12 greater seating capacity.

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14 (vi) Existing department rules on school bus
15 life cycles;

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17 (vii) Existing department rules on the review of
18 a school district's fleet when a district's average daily
19 membership decreases by fifteen percent (15%) or more in a
20 three (3) year period;

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22 (viii) Existing department rules on allowable
23 and nonallowable costs;

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2 (ix) Opportunities to reduce the number of
3 school district buses. The department shall identify
4 circumstances where school districts may adopt multiple
5 routing, including circumstances where adjustment of school
6 schedules would allow use of multiple routing;

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8 (x) Incentives for school districts to adopt and
9 use modern school transportation routing software,
10 navigation systems and related programs and training;

11

12 (xi) Any other mechanism in the state's
13 transportation funding system that would increase
14 efficiencies;

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16 (xii) Possible use of regional transportation
17 service districts to provide cost savings and improve
18 efficiency for school district transportation operations;

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20 (xiii) Opportunities to phase in school buses
21 equipped with seat belts.

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1 (b) To the extent the department determines regional
2 meetings of school districts around the state are necessary
3 to complete the requirements of this section, the
4 department is authorized to conduct the meetings.
5 Appropriate school district personnel shall attend regional
6 meetings at the request of the department.

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8 (c) The department of education may request any
9 executive branch agency or any school district of the state
10 to provide information necessary to the department in its
11 studies. Agencies and school districts shall comply
12 promptly with any request.

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14 **Section 2.** Not later than June 1, 2018, the
15 department of education shall report to the joint education
16 interim committee its preliminary evaluation and
17 recommendations on the studies conducted pursuant to
18 section 1 of this act. Not later than September 1, 2018,
19 the department shall report its final evaluation and
20 recommendations to the joint education interim committee.

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1 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
2 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
3 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
4 Constitution.

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6

(END)