

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6596

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a school bus emergency fuel grant program.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2008

Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself and Mr. SPACE) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to carry out  
a school bus emergency fuel grant program.

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 “Gas Price Relief for  
5 Schools Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY FUEL GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Trans-  
8 portation may make grants to eligible recipients to assist  
9 the recipients in offsetting increases in school bus trans-  
10 portation operating costs attributable to higher fuel prices.

1 (b) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible recipient seeking a  
2 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an  
3 application that is in such form and contains such infor-  
4 mation as the Secretary may require.

5 (c) CRITERIA FOR AWARDING GRANTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under  
7 this section, the Secretary shall consider the extent  
8 to which an eligible recipient has been adversely af-  
9 fected by increases in fuel costs in providing school  
10 bus transportation.

11 (2) FACTORS.—For purposes of paragraph (1),  
12 the Secretary, at minimum, shall consider—

13 (A) whether a public school system served  
14 by the eligible recipient has implemented cuts to  
15 school bus transportation services as a result of  
16 increased school bus transportation fuel costs;

17 (B) whether a public school system served  
18 by the eligible recipient has implemented  
19 changes or cuts in school operations, such as a  
20 shorter school week, as a result of increased  
21 school bus transportation fuel costs; and

22 (C) the distances traveled by school buses  
23 operated by the eligible recipient, particularly  
24 for public school systems located in rural areas

1           where school buses travel greater distances to  
2           transport students.

3           (d) GRANT ALLOCATIONS.—

4           (1) SOLICITATION OF APPLICANTS.—The Sec-  
5           retary shall conduct a national solicitation for appli-  
6           cations for grants under this section.

7           (2) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—To the max-  
8           imum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure  
9           a broad geographic distribution of grant awards  
10          under this section.

11          (3) DISTRIBUTION AMONG STATES.—Not to ex-  
12          ceed 5 percent of the grants funds awarded under  
13          this section in a fiscal year may be awarded to eligi-  
14          ble recipients in any State.

15          (e) SUBALLOCATIONS TO PRIVATE ENTITIES.—An  
16          eligible recipient that receives a grant under this section  
17          may allocate all or any portion of the amounts provided  
18          under the grant to a private entity providing school bus  
19          transportation to a public school system for the eligible  
20          recipient on a contract basis.

21          (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-  
22          nitions apply:

23           (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible  
24          recipient” means a unit of State or local government

1 responsible for providing school bus transportation  
2 to a public school system.

3 (2) SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION.—The term  
4 “school bus transportation” means the transpor-  
5 tation of preprimary, primary, or secondary students  
6 of a public school system to or from school or an  
7 event related to school by a school bus or multi-  
8 function school activity bus.

9 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
10 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
11 out this section such sums as may be necessary for each  
12 of fiscal years 2008 and 2009. Such sums shall remain  
13 available until expended .

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