

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3432

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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:

8 (1) 3-POINT SAFETY BELT.—The term “3-point
9 safety belt” has the meaning given the term “Type
10 2 seat belt assembly” in section 571.209 of title 49,

1 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the
2 date of enactment of this Act).

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

7 (A) a forward collision warning function—

8 (i) to detect vehicles or objects ahead
9 of the vehicle; and

10 (ii) to alert the operator of the vehicle
11 of an impending collision; and

12 (B) a crash-imminent braking function to
13 provide automatic braking when forward-look-
14 ing sensors of the vehicle indicate that—

15 (i) a crash is imminent; and

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

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

23 (4) SCHOOL BUS.—The term “school bus” has
24 the meaning given the term “schoolbus” in section
25 30125(a) of title 49, United States Code.

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

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

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

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

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

19 (A) an automatic emergency braking sys-
20 tem;

21 (B) an event data recorder; and

22 (C) an electronic stability control system,
23 as defined in section 571.136 of title 49, Code
24 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date
25 of enactment of this Act); and

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

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

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

20 **SEC. 4. STUDIES.**

21 (a) MOTION-ACTIVATED DETECTION SYSTEMS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
 23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
 24 of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-
 25 tion (referred to in this section as the “Adminis-

1 trator”) shall complete a study with respect to the
2 benefits of requiring school buses manufactured in,
3 or imported into, the United States to be equipped
4 with a motion-activated detection system that is ca-
5 pable of—

6 (A) detecting pedestrians located near the
7 exterior of the school bus; and

8 (B) alerting the operator of the school bus
9 of the pedestrians described in subparagraph
10 (A).

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

17 (b) SAFETY BELT ALERT.—Not later than 2 years
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
19 shall complete a study on the benefits of requiring school
20 buses manufactured in, or imported into, the United
21 States to be equipped with a system to alert the operator
22 of the school bus if a passenger in the school bus is not
23 wearing a 3-point safety belt equipped on the school bus.

24 (c) RETROFITTING.—Not later than 2 years after the
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall

1 complete a study with respect to the benefits of requiring
2 all school buses operating in the United States to be
3 equipped with a 3-point safety belt at each designated
4 seating position.

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

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

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

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

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

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