

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL DRH40380-MKa-114 (03/08)

Short Title: School Bus Safety Enhancement Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Boswell.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENHANCE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-248(a) reads as rewritten:

5 "(a) The superintendent of each local school administrative unit, shall cause each school
6 bus owned or operated by such local school administrative unit to be inspected at least once
7 each ~~30~~42 days during the school year for mechanical defects, or other defects which may
8 affect the safe operation of such bus. A report of such inspection, together with the
9 recommendations of the person making the inspection, shall be filed promptly in the office of
10 the superintendent of such local school administrative unit, and a copy thereof shall be
11 forwarded to the principal of the school to which such bus is assigned."

12 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 143-300.1(a)(2) reads as rewritten:

13 "(2) The driver is a paid or an unpaid school bus driver trainee under the
14 supervision of an authorized employee of the Department of Transportation,
15 Division of Motor Vehicles, or an authorized employee of that board or a
16 county or city administrative unit thereof,"

17 **SECTION 2.(b)** Local boards of education may use State funds appropriated to the
18 transportation allotment for local school administrative units each fiscal year to provide pay to
19 prospective school bus driver trainees to increase retention of trainees during the recommended
20 process for school bus driver training and certification established by the Department of
21 Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Public Instruction.

22 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
23 Public Instruction the sum of nineteen million one hundred seventy thousand seventy dollars
24 (\$19,170,070) in recurring funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to provide additional funds to
25 local school administrative units for the transportation allotment to be used to increase the
26 maximum hourly rate for school bus drivers that can be paid for with State funds by two dollars
27 (\$2.00) per hour. The increase in the hourly rate shall enhance the ability for local school
28 administrative units to attract and retain school bus drivers to increase the number of
29 experienced school bus drivers operating school buses in the State.

30 **SECTION 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act become effective July 1, 2017. The
31 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law. Section 1 of this act applies to
32 inspections performed on or after that date.



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