

By: Nichols, et al. S.C.R. No. 3
(Canales, Ashby, Thompson of Brazoria, Rogers, Harris)

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Each day, more than 26 million students rely on
3 school buses for safe transportation, and many school districts
4 have experienced difficulty in keeping up with this demand due to
5 federal licensing requirements that have exacerbated the shortage
6 of school bus drivers; and

7 WHEREAS, Part 383 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety
8 Regulations requires school bus drivers to obtain a Commercial
9 Driver's License, but the application process has included
10 unnecessary obstacles to meeting this obligation; for example, the
11 testing and training portions of the CDL application were
12 previously handled by different third-party skills examiners,
13 which limited applicants' ability to complete the exams if they did
14 not have access to both a tester and a trainer; a recent change to
15 this rule helps states streamline the process of obtaining a CDL by
16 allowing the same examiner to both test and train an applicant,
17 revealing that with less federal interference, states can license
18 school bus drivers more efficiently; and

19 WHEREAS, According to a survey conducted by *School Bus Fleet*
20 *Magazine*, most school districts have endured some degree of bus
21 driver shortage, and data from the National Association for Pupil
22 Transportation reveals that many school districts consider CDL
23 requirements to be a major factor in their ability to recruit and
24 retain bus drivers; one Texas school district has successfully

1 overcome its shortage, but only through costly training programs
2 that compensate new drivers as they complete the CDL application;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, School districts that provide valuable
5 transportation services are burdened by a flawed federal system
6 with inefficient licensing requirements, and Congress should solve
7 this problem by allowing states to establish regulations according
8 to their own needs; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas,
10 3rd Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the
11 United States to pass legislation that would grant licensing
12 authority for public school bus drivers to the states; and, be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
15 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
16 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
17 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
18 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
19 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
20 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.