

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 546

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to seat belts on buses that transport children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 547.701, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(e) In this subsection, "bus" includes a school bus, school activity bus, multifunction school activity bus, or school-chartered bus. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, a [A] bus operated by or contracted for use by a school district for the transportation of schoolchildren shall be equipped with a three-point seat belt for each passenger, including the operator. A bus shall be equipped with a two-point seat belt for each passenger, including the operator, if the board of trustees for the school district:

(1) determines it is not feasible, in consideration of the district's budget and student needs, for the district to equip the district's buses with three-point seat belts as required by this subsection; and

(2) [This subsection does not apply to:

(1) a bus purchased by a school district that is a model year 2017 or earlier; or

(2) a bus purchased by a school district that is a model year 2018 or later if the board of trustees for the school

1 ~~district.~~

2 ~~[(A) determines that the district's budget does~~
3 ~~not permit the district to purchase a bus that is equipped with the~~
4 ~~seat belts required by this subsection, and~~

5 ~~[(B)]~~ votes to approve that determination in a
6 public meeting.

7 (f) A school district may accept gifts, grants, and
8 donations from any public or private source to implement the
9 requirements of Subsection (e).

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.