

House Bill 323
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 547.701, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 547.701. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUSES AND OTHER BUSES USED TO TRANSPORT SCHOOLCHILDREN.

SECTION 2. Section 547.701, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) In this subsection, "bus" includes a school bus and a school activity bus. 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. This subsection applies to:

(1) each bus purchased by a school district on or after September 1, 2010, for the transportation of schoolchildren; and

(2) each school-chartered bus contracted for use by a school district on or after September 1, 2014, for the transportation of schoolchildren.

No equivalent provision.

SENATE VERSION

Same as House version.

SECTION 2. Section 547.701, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) In this subsection, "bus" includes a school bus and a school activity bus. 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. This subsection applies to:

(1) each bus purchased by a school district on or after September 1, 2010, for the transportation of schoolchildren; and

(2) each school-chartered bus contracted for use by a school district on or after September 1, 2011, for the transportation of schoolchildren.

SECTION __. Chapter 34, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 34.012 to read as follows:

Section 34.012. THREE-POINT SEAT BELT INSTRUCTION; INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE. (a) The State Board of Education shall develop and make available to each school district a

CONFERENCE

House Bill 323
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SENATE VERSION

CONFERENCE

program of instruction in the proper use of a three-point seat belt.

(b) The State Board of Education shall serve as a clearinghouse of best practices for school districts seeking the most efficient and sensible information regarding school bus safety, including possible compliance with Section 547.701 of the Transportation Code using school buses originally purchased without seat belts.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. At any time before the dates prescribed in SECTION 1 of this Act, a school district may, by its own initiative and at its own expense, adapt any or all of its existing bus fleet with a three-point seat belt.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 3. Chapter 34, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 34.012, 34.013, and 31.014 to read as follows:

Sec. 34.012. BUS SEAT BELT POLICY. A school district shall require a student riding a bus operated by or contracted for operation by the district to wear a seat belt if the bus is equipped with seat belts for all passengers on the bus. A school district may implement a disciplinary policy to enforce the use of seat belts by students.

Sec. 34.013. FUNDING FOR THREE-POINT SEAT BELTS. (a) A person may offer to donate three-point seat belts or money for the purchase of three-point seat belts for a school district's school buses.

House Bill 323
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SENATE VERSION

CONFERENCE

(b) The board of trustees of a school district shall consider any offer made by a person under Subsection

(a). The board of trustees may accept or decline the offer after adequate consideration.

(c) The board of trustees may acknowledge a person who donates three-point seat belts or money for the purchase of three-point seat belts for a school bus under this section by displaying a small, discreet sign on the side or back of the bus recognizing the person who made the donation. The sign may not serve as an advertisement for the person who made the donation.

Sec. 34.014. REPORTING OF BUS ACCIDENTS. (a) In this section, "bus" means a bus operated by or contracted for use by a school district to transport schoolchildren.

(b) A school district shall report annually to the Texas Education Agency the number of accidents in which the district's buses are involved. The agency by rule shall determine the information to be reported, including:

(1) the type of bus involved in the accident;

(2) whether the bus was equipped with seat belts;

(3) the number of students and adults involved in the accident;

(4) the number and types of injuries sustained by bus passengers in the accident; and

(5) whether the injured passengers were wearing seat belts at the time of the accident.

(c) The Texas Education Agency shall publish the reports received under this section on its Internet website.

House Bill 323
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SECTION 3. The changes made by Section 2 of this Act do not take effect unless the legislature appropriates money specifically for the purpose of reimbursing school districts for expenses incurred in complying with that section.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

SENATE VERSION

SECTION 4. Same as House version.

SECTION 5. Same as House version.

CONFERENCE