

By: Nichols

S.C.R. No. 18

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

1 that compensate new drivers as they complete the CDL application;  
2 and

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

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

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