

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 799

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the installment of electric school buses and solar panels in Texas public schools.

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

ARTICLE 1: FINDING AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. The legislature finds that:

(1) The legislature is committed to ensuring federal funding and state resources are equitably allocated to prevent a disaster such as Winter Storm Uri from occurring once again.

(2) The legislature equally commits to reviewing and utilizing efficient methods such as battery storage and dispatchable energy, to the best of its ability to ensure all Texas residents have access to energy in the case of another state disaster.

(3) The legislature finds that public school facilities are in a unique position because of the hours of operation to serve as an energy storage facility. Solar panels can be installed on these public schools and electric school buses may be reliable form for energy to be stored, distributed, and reserved daily and/or dispatched in case of an emergency.

(4) The legislature is committed to appropriating funds to assist in the updated infrastructure of our public schools and to ensure the reliability of the Texas grid.

1 (5) The federal government has created new programs
2 and tax credits allowing public schools to benefit from the use of
3 electric school buses and clean energy measures such as solar
4 panels. These benefits include nearly \$5 billion dollars to replace
5 school buses with electric models. Additionally, there are at least
6 51 Texas projects amounting to \$164 million that have been
7 waitlisted, demonstrating a strong interest and need for assistance
8 in applying for these methods.

9 (6) The legislature understands that in a state of
10 disaster public schools may be able to serve as an emergency shelter
11 because of the storage generated by the electric school buses and
12 solar panels on public schools.

13 ARTICLE 2: USE OF THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL
14 QUALITY OFFICE

15 SECTION 2. Sec. 447.002. and 447.003., Government Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Sec. 447.002. INFORMATION; PROCEDURES AND RULES; MEASURES
18 AND PROGRAMS. (a) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
19 office shall develop and provide energy and water conservation
20 information for the state.

21 (b) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality office
22 may establish procedures and adopt rules relating to the
23 development and implementation of energy and water conservation
24 measures and programs applicable to state buildings and facilities.

25 (c) A procedure established or a rule adopted under
26 Subsection (b) may include provisions relating to:

27 (1) the retrofitting of existing state buildings and

1 facilities with energy-saving or water-saving devices; ~~and~~

2 (2) the energy-related or water-related renovation of
3 those buildings and facilities; and

4 (3) assistance to public school districts to submit
5 applications for federal and state funding for the installation
6 and purchase of electric school buses and solar panels in public
7 schools.

8 Sec. 447.003. LIAISON TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. The Texas
9 Commission on Environmental Quality is the state liaison to the
10 federal government for the implementation and administration of
11 federal programs relating to state agency energy matters. The
12 office shall administer state programs established under:

13 (1) Part D, Title III, Energy Policy and Conservation
14 Act (42 U.S.C. Section 6321 et seq.), and its subsequent
15 amendments;

16 (2) Part G, Title III, Energy Policy and Conservation
17 Act (42 U.S.C. Section 6371 et seq.), and its subsequent
18 amendments; and

19 (3) other federal energy conservation programs
20 including the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure
21 Investment and Jobs Act, and other state sources of funding as
22 assigned to the office by the governor or the legislature.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.