

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 8033
BILL NUMBER: SB 501

DATE PREPARED: Apr 12, 2001
BILL AMENDED: Apr 11, 2001

SUBJECT: Use of School Buses to Transport Children.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Transportation of School Children*- This bill requires a person that transports children in the care of a preschool operated by a school corporation, a public elementary school, or a public secondary school to transport the children in a school bus or, in certain circumstances permitted under Indiana law, a special purpose bus. It requires the driver of the school bus or a special purpose bus to meet certain requirements under Indiana law.

It amends the definition of "special purpose bus" to mean a vehicle that accommodates more than 10 passengers and meets federal school bus safety requirements with the exception of requirements of a signal arm and flashing lamps.

It permits the use of a public transportation system to transport school children if the motor carriage used is designed to carry at least 30 passengers. It authorizes a public transportation corporation to provide expanded service outside the county in which the corporation is located for the purpose of providing transportation to school children.

It provides that if before July 1, 2001, a person owns a vehicle other than a school bus or a special purpose bus that is used to transport school children, the vehicle may be used to transport children until June 30, 2007.

Class B Infraction- It provides that a person who violates certain provisions regarding the transportation of school children commits a Class B infraction.

Special Use of School Buses- It authorizes the governing body of a school corporation to permit, by written authorization, the use of school buses owned in whole or in part by the corporation for the transportation needs of certain nonprofit fairs or festivals.

Elimination of School Bus Name- It eliminates the requirement that the name of a school corporation operating a school bus appear on the roof of the vehicle.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Elimination of School Bus Name-* The State School Bus Committee would incur no additional administrative expenses regarding this provision of the bill.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) *Class B Infraction-* If additional court cases occur, revenue to the state General Fund may increase if infraction judgments and court fees are collected. The maximum judgment for a Class B infraction is \$1,000 which is deposited in the state General Fund. If court actions are filed and a judgment is entered, a court fee of \$70 would be assessed. 70% of the court fee would be deposited in the state General Fund if the case is filed in a court of record or 55% if the case is filed in a city or town court.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Transportation of School Children-* It is not likely that school corporations would experience an increase in administrative expenses due to this provision of the bill. Typically, school corporations utilize conforming school buses to transport students to and from extra-curricular events. In the cases where a non-conforming vehicle, such as a parent's van, would have normally been used (absent this bill), school corporations would incur little or no difficulty locating buses from their existing fleets.

Special Use of School Buses- School corporations would incur no additional administrative expenses regarding this provision of the bill.

Elimination of School Bus Name- Public school corporations would no longer be required to letter approximately 1,200 newly purchased school buses each year (based on 10% of the currently existing fleet of school buses). The approximate annual cost savings would range from \$27 to \$41 per bus for a total of \$32,400 to \$49,200 (based on lettering costs of \$1.00 to \$1.50 and an average of 27 characters per bus).

Explanation of Local Revenues: (Revised) *Class B Infraction-* If additional court actions are filed and a judgment is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$70 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations; Trial Courts, Law Enforcement Agencies.

Information Sources: State School Bus Committee; Indiana Association of School Bus Distributors, Merchanthouse Transportation Sales, Inc.