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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6525

BILL NUMBER: SB 406

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 8, 2011

BILL AMENDED: Jan 31, 2011

SUBJECT: Use of School Bus Safety Belts.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Rogers

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Behning

BILL STATUS: As Passed Senate

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *State School Bus Committee*: This bill requires the state school bus committee (committee) to have a regular meeting once each quarter (current law requires a meeting each month).

Safety Belts: The bill also requires the committee to adopt and enforce rules to require that a person operating a school bus equipped with safety belts provide instruction to the passengers on the school bus at least one time a semester on the proper fastening of the safety belt about the passenger's body and to conduct an emergency passenger evacuation drill at least one time a semester. It provides that the failure to provide the instruction or conduct the drill subjects: (1) an employee of a school corporation to removal from employment; and (2) a person operating a school bus under contract to cancellation of the contract.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *State School Bus Committee*: There would be no fiscal impact because of this change as committee members do not currently receive per diem or reimbursement for travel expenses.

Safety Belts: Under current law, school children riding in a school bus are not required to wear safety belts. This bill charges the State School Bus Committee to adopt and enforce rules that would require a school bus driver operating a school bus equipped with safety belts to instruct the passengers at least once a semester on the proper use of the seat belts. Additionally, school drivers would have to conduct an emergency passenger evacuation drill at least once a semester. Failure to do so would be grounds for dismissal, or cancellation of the contract if the employee is an independent contractor. The fiscal impact would be minimal.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Safety Belts*: There would be little cost associated with implementing this proposal for those school corporations with buses equipped with safety belts.

Background: Several school corporations currently have buses equipped with safety belts. One school corporation indicated that it decided to have seat belts installed on new buses because of safety concerns. The cost per bus is approximately \$10,000. The corporation indicated that evacuation drills are performed twice a year. Parents are notified of the drills.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State School Bus Committee.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: Monica Coburn, Transportation Manager, Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, 812-376-4246; Ashley Gibson, Legislative Director, Indiana Department of Education, 317-232-6618.

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