



SB 1630 school buses; student transportation; vehicles (Kerr)

- Allows a governing board to purchase public liability and property damage insurance for operators of vehicles while driving the vehicles
- Allows the governing board of any school district to require operators of vehicles to carry public liability insurance in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 for personal injury to any one person and \$100,000 for personal injuries arising out of the accident
- Requires the annual report card to contain the total number of incidents that occurred at stops for vehicles and on vehicles defined as a vehicle designed to carry at least 11 and not more than 15 passengers
- Increases route mileage from 20 to 30 miles each way to and from the school of attendance or to and from a pickup point on a regular transportation route to transport eligible students who reside in nonadjacent school districts
- Allows a school district to include route mileage and the number of riders to calculate the funding for transporting eligible students using the vehicles defined above
- Changes terminology from “school bus” to “school transportation” to include vehicles and changes name of “school bus advisory council” to “school transportation advisory council”
- Adds the following rules to the list of rules that may be adopted in order to improve the safety and welfare of student passengers:
 - Minimum standards for the design and equipment of school buses designed for 16 or more passengers
 - Minimum standards for periodic inspection and maintenance of school buses designed for 16 or more passengers
 - Procedures for buses with 16 or more passengers
 - Minimum standards for the design and equipment of motor vehicles that are substantially different than the minimum standards for school buses
 - Minimum standards for periodic inspection and maintenance of motor vehicles
 - Procedures for the operation of motor vehicles
- Requires charter school employees to be held accountable by rules that school district employee's follow regarding the violation of rules or misconduct
- Allows the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the student transportation advisory council, to develop guidance, recommendations, and best practices for school districts and charter schools to operate and maintain vehicles that transport students if the vehicles are designed to carry 10 passengers or



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fewer and are used to transport students to or from home and school on a regular basis

- Increases student transportation advisory council from 9 to 13 members appointed by the governor
- Adds the following to the list of members the governor will appoint:
 - One member representing the state board for charter schools
 - One member from a school district a student count less than 600 in a county with a population of less than 300,000 people
 - One member representing a private sector school bus service provider or a private sector student transportation service provider
 - One member from a charter school with a student count of less than 600
 - One member from a charter school with a student count of more than 600
 - Two public members
- Requires the student transportation advisory council to do the following in addition to the existing requirements:
 - Meet at least twice annually
 - Advise and consult with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) concerning matters related to the certification of school bus drivers and the safety of school buses and motor vehicles
 - Advise and consult with the DPS concerning matters related to modernizing and innovating K-12 student transportation to reduce transportation barriers for students, increase access to public school options, and provide more transportation options for school districts and charter schools
 - Advise and consult with the Department of Administration concerning purchasing strategies to maximize the transportation resources and find efficiencies to modernize and properly size transportation vehicles and systems
- Specifies that school buses are designed for 16 passengers or more
- Requires the school transportation advisory council to establish minimum standards of certification for school bus drivers and drivers of other vehicles
- Requires standards to be applied to both the operation of a school bus or another vehicle
- Does not require an applicant applying to drive a vehicle described above to possess or obtain a commercial driver's license