

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6652

As of January 25, 1996

Title: An act relating to school bus improvement.

Brief Description: Establishing the school bus improvement grant program.

Sponsors: Senators Finkbeiner and Johnson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Education: 1/26/96.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Staff: Leslie Goldstein (786-7424)

Background: The state established a new method of providing state bus replacement funds in 1981. This system was partially amended during the 1995 legislative session. Before 1995, the state provided replacement funds based upon the average price paid on a bus meeting state specifications. After 1995, the state provides replacement funds based on the lowest bid quote meeting state specifications. Replacement costs are allowed for certain items that do not meet the state minimum specifications, such as certain larger engines and bigger axles. The state does not pay for other options that school districts might need such as sanders, luggage compartments, certain types of engines, and special seats for the drivers.

Summary of Bill: The school bus improvement grant program is established. The purpose of the program is to provide grants for school districts to purchase school buses if certain conditions are met. The district must have fewer than 3,000 students and demonstrate that due to terrain, climate, or road conditions, the district requires buses with additional features. Districts may deposit funds in the district's transportation vehicle fund or use the funds to purchase buses immediately.

Appropriation: \$1,000,000.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 23, 1996.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.