

By: Representatives Karriem, Taylor

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1322

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-41-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL BUS PURCHASED BY A LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD TO BE
3 EQUIPPED WITH SEAT BELTS AT ALL SEATING POSITIONS; TO REQUIRE THE
4 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES REGARDING THE TYPES
5 OF SEAT BELTS REQUIRED AND USE OF SEAT BELTS; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Each school bus purchased by a local school board
9 under the authority granted by Section 37-41-81 after July 1,
10 2018, shall be equipped with seat belts at all seating positions.

11 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-41-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 37-41-1. The State Board of Education is authorized,
14 empowered and directed to promulgate rules and regulations
15 relating to the transportation of students enrolled in the public
16 school districts, including rules and regulations for:

17 (a) Setting standards for public school district bus
18 routes;



19 (b) Setting standards for public school district buses,
20 including setting standards for types of seatbelts required for
21 buses and standards for the use of seat belts;

22 (c) Setting standards for public school district bus
23 drivers;

24 (d) Formulating procedure for selecting public school
25 district bus drivers;

26 (e) Formulating courses of training for public school
27 district bus drivers and mechanics, and assist in administering
28 and financing such courses;

29 (f) Providing operation procedure for public school
30 district buses to insure safety of pupils;

31 (g) Formulating specifications for use in purchasing
32 public school district buses; getting bids on public school
33 district buses; equipment and supplies; and fixing prices based
34 upon said bids which school districts may not exceed in purchasing
35 said equipment;

36 (h) Formulating specifications for use by school
37 districts in purchasing used school buses; and

38 (i) Providing a system of records and reports for the
39 purpose of carrying out the provisions of Sections 37-41-1 through
40 37-41-51, and providing the superintendent of schools with a
41 sufficient supply of report forms.

42 All rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the
43 State Board of Education relating to school district bus drivers



44 shall also be applicable to drivers of privately owned buses
45 transporting public school district children.

46 All rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the
47 State Board of Education pursuant to the authority conferred by
48 this section shall be spread at large upon the minutes of the
49 State Board of Education and copies thereof shall be furnished to
50 all school boards not less than thirty (30) days prior to the
51 effective date of such rules and regulations.

52 The provisions of this chapter are applicable to school
53 districts and the transportation of students enrolled in public
54 school districts. Charter schools authorized by the Mississippi
55 Charter School Authorizer Board are exempt from the provisions of
56 this chapter.

57 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
58 and after July 1, 2018.

