

By: Representative Clarke

To: Transportation;
Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 868

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A STUDY COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE
2 FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF REQUIRING PUBLIC SCHOOL BUSES TO
3 BE EQUIPPED WITH SAFETY BELTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a study committee to
6 determine the feasibility and desirability of requiring public
7 school buses in the State of Mississippi to be equipped with
8 safety belts. The study must include recommendations regarding
9 the desirability of three-point lap-shoulder belts versus lap-only
10 belts and whether a state mandate, if any, for school bus safety
11 belts should be applicable only to newly purchased buses or also
12 to school districts' existing fleets. The committee shall make a
13 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
14 recommended legislation, to the Legislature before October 30,
15 2007.

16 (2) The committee will be composed of the following members:

17 (a) The Chairman of the House Transportation Committee;

18 (b) The Chairman of the Senate Highways and

19 Transportation Committee;

20 (c) Two (2) members of the House Transportation

21 Committee, appointed by the Speaker of the House of

22 Representatives;

23 (d) Two (2) members of the Senate Highways and

24 Transportation Committee, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

25 (e) One (1) member of the House Education Committee,

26 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

27 (f) One (1) member of the Senate Education Committee,
28 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and

29 (g) One (1) member appointed by the Governor.

30 Appointments must be made within thirty (30) days after the
31 effective date of this act. Within fifteen (15) days after the
32 period designated for making appointments, on a day to be
33 designated jointly by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of
34 the House, the committee shall meet and organize by selecting from
35 its membership a chairman and a vice chairman. The vice chairman
36 will serve as secretary and is responsible for keeping all records
37 of the committee. A majority of the members of the committee
38 constitutes a quorum. An affirmative vote of a majority of the
39 committee is required in the transaction of all business. All
40 members must be notified in writing of all meetings, and such
41 notices must be mailed at least five (5) days before the date on
42 which a meeting is to be held.

43 (3) Members of the committee who are not legislators, state
44 officials or state employees will be compensated at the per diem
45 rate authorized by Section 25-3-69 and will be reimbursed in
46 accordance with Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses
47 incurred in the performance of their duties. Legislative members
48 of the committee shall be paid from the contingent expense funds
49 of their respective houses in the same manner as provided for
50 committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session;
51 however, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the
52 committee may be paid while the Legislature is in session. A
53 committee member may not incur per diem, travel or other expenses
54 unless previously authorized by vote, at a meeting of the
55 committee, which action must be recorded in the official minutes
56 of the meeting. Nonlegislative members will be paid from any
57 funds made available to the committee for that purpose.

58 (4) The committee may utilize clerical and legal staff
59 already employed by the Legislature and any other staff assistance

60 made available to it. To effectuate the purpose of this act, upon
61 the request of the chairman of the committee, any department,
62 division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the state or of
63 any political subdivision of the state shall provide to the
64 committee such facilities, assistance and data that will enable
65 the committee to properly carry out its task.

66 (5) Upon presentation of its report to the Legislature, the
67 committee shall be dissolved.

68 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
69 and after its passage.