

By the Committee on Education/K-12 and Representatives
 Chestnut, Ogles, Gay, Detert, Frankel, Logan, Casey, Dennis,
 Brown, Constantine, Stafford, Fasano, Ritter, Levine, Effman,
 Merchant and Warner

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to school buses; requiring that
 3 buses purchased after a specified date and used
 4 in transporting certain students be equipped
 5 with safety belts that comply with specified
 6 standards; providing an exemption for certain
 7 school buses; requiring passengers to wear
 8 safety belts; providing immunity of a school
 9 district, bus operator, and others for injuries
 10 to a passenger caused solely because the
 11 passenger was not wearing a safety belt;
 12 providing immunity to such persons for injury
 13 caused by a passenger's dangerous or unsafe use
 14 of a safety belt; providing certain provisions
 15 for implementation; providing an effective
 16 date.
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 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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 20 Section 1. (1) Each school bus that is purchased
 21 after December 31, 2000, and used to transport students in
 22 grades pre-K through 12 must be equipped with safety belts in
 23 a number sufficient to allow each student who is being
 24 transported to use a separate safety belt. These safety belts
 25 must meet the standards required under s. 316.614, Florida
 26 Statutes. A school bus that was purchased prior to December
 27 31, 2000, is not required to be equipped with safety belts.
 28 (2) Each passenger on a school bus that is equipped
 29 with safety belts shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened
 30 safety belt at all times while the bus is in operation.
 31 Neither the state nor a school district shall be liable for

1 personal injury to a passenger on such a school bus which is
2 caused by the passenger's failure to wear a safety belt.

3 (3) A school district, school bus operator under
4 contract with a school district, or an agent or employee of a
5 school district or operator, including a teacher or volunteer
6 serving as a chaperone, is not liable in an action for
7 personal injury by a school bus passenger solely because the
8 injured party was not wearing a safety belt.

9 (4) A school district, school bus operator under
10 contract with a school district, or an agent or employee of a
11 school district or operator, including a teacher or volunteer
12 serving as a chaperone, is not liable in an action for
13 personal injury by a school bus passenger for an injury caused
14 by another passenger's use of a safety belt in a dangerous or
15 unsafe manner.

16 (5) In implementing the provisions of this section,
17 each school district must prioritize the allocation of buses
18 equipped with safety belts to ensure that elementary schools
19 within the district receive first priority.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
21 law.

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