

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Miller

304-2314-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to bus drivers; amending s.  
3           316.70, F.S.; requiring the driving records of  
4           non-public-sector bus drivers to be checked for  
5           suspended or revoked licenses; providing  
6           penalties; providing that private-school  
7           students may ride on public-school buses and  
8           public-school students may ride on  
9           private-school buses, subject to specified  
10          conditions; providing an effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14           Section 1. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (1) of  
15 section 316.70, Florida Statutes, and subsection (2) of that  
16 section is amended, to read:

17           316.70 Nonpublic sector buses; safety rules.--

18           (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish  
19 and revise standards to assure the safe operation of nonpublic  
20 sector buses, as defined in s. 316.003(78), which standards  
21 shall be those contained in 49 C.F.R. parts 382, 385, and  
22 390-397 and which shall be directed towards assuring that:

23           (d) The driving records of drivers of  
24 non-public-sector buses are checked by their employers at  
25 least once each year to ascertain whether the driver has a  
26 suspended or revoked drivers' license.

27           (2) The Department of Transportation may assess a  
28 civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per infraction against any  
29 person who violates any provision of this section or who  
30 violates any rule or order of the department.

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1           Section 2. Private-school students may be transported  
2 on public-school buses, and public-school students may be  
3 transported on private-school buses when there is mutual  
4 agreement between the local school board and the applicable  
5 private school. Any agreement for private-school students to  
6 be transported on public-school buses must be in accordance  
7 with section 768.28(9)(a), Florida Statutes, and section  
8 316.6145, Florida Statutes. Any agreement for public-school  
9 students to be transported on private-school buses must be  
10 contingent on the private school bus driver's having adequate  
11 liability insurance through his or her employer.

12           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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14                           STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
15   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
16   Senate Bill 1874

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17 The Committee Substitute:

18 -removes the provision requiring each school district to check  
19 the driving records of all school bus drivers at least once  
20 each year to ascertain whether the driver has a suspended or  
21 revoked drivers' license; and

22 -provides that private school students may ride on a public  
23 school bus and that public school students may ride on a  
24 private school bus, subject to the specified terms of an  
25 agreement between the local school board and the private  
26 school.  
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