



1 sponsorship of the installation of crash-protection equipment  
2 on school buses pursuant to the provisions of this section.

3 (1)(a) Any person or business entity may sponsor the  
4 installation of seat belt assemblies as described in  
5 subsection (3) on a school bus by paying a sponsorship fee as  
6 prescribed by the district school board. Proceeds from the  
7 collection of the fee shall be distributed as follows:

8 1. Up to 5 percent may be used to pay the cost of an  
9 advertising agent involved with the transaction.

10 2. Up to 45 percent shall be used to pay for the cost  
11 of the seat belt assemblies and the cost of installation.

12 3. The remaining funds shall be remitted for deposit  
13 into the General Revenue Fund to be used for transportation  
14 purposes.

15 (b) There may be up to four business entity sponsors  
16 per school bus. Sponsorships or cosponsorships by individuals  
17 shall be as provided by the district school board.

18 (2)(a) Upon request by the sponsor, the district  
19 school board shall place signage on the exterior rear,  
20 lower-quarter panels of the school bus acknowledging the  
21 sponsor and, if the sponsor is a business entity, bearing the  
22 logo of the business entity. However, a sponsor may not be  
23 required to have his or her name or the name of the business  
24 entity placed on the school bus.

25 (b) The acknowledgment shall bear the wording "Safety  
26 belts sponsored by" followed by the name of the sponsor.

27 (c) The design and size of the signage shall be as  
28 prescribed by the district school board.

29 (3) The school bus must be equipped with a seat belt  
30 assembly that meets the requirements for type 2 seat belt  
31 assemblies established under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety

1 Standard No. 209, 49 C.F.R. s. 571.209, or with any other  
2 pelvic and upper-torso restraint system approved by the  
3 Federal Government in a number sufficient to allow each  
4 student who is being transported to use a separate pelvic and  
5 upper-torso restraint system.

6 (4) The district school board shall provide for  
7 sponsorship of the seat belt assembly installation on new  
8 purchases of school buses.

9 (5) Sponsorship under this section does not impose or  
10 imply any duty or responsibility on the sponsor for  
11 installation or use of any seat belt assembly on any school  
12 bus; and, in any action relating to the installation, use,  
13 disuse, or misuse of any seat belt assembly on a school bus,  
14 liability does not accrue to any person or business entity  
15 because that person or entity is a sponsor of seat belt  
16 assemblies under this section. Such sponsor may not be named  
17 on the jury verdict form and may not be deemed or found to be  
18 in any way at fault or responsible for the injury, death, or  
19 damage that gave rise to the action.

20 Section 3. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1006.25,  
21 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

22 1006.25 School buses.--School buses shall be defined  
23 and meet specifications as follows:

24 (3) STANDARDS FOR LEASED VEHICLES.--A motor vehicle  
25 owned and operated by a county or municipal transit authority  
26 that is leased by the district school board for transportation  
27 of public school students must meet such standards as the  
28 State Board of Education establishes by rule. A school bus  
29 authorized by a district school board to carry passengers  
30 other than school students must have the words "School Bus"  
31 and any other signs and insignia that mark or designate it as

1 | a school bus and any sign of sponsorship under s. 1006.273  
2 | covered, removed, or otherwise concealed while such passengers  
3 | are being transported.

4 |       (4) OCCUPANT PROTECTION SYSTEMS.--Students may be  
5 | transported only in designated seating positions, except as  
6 | provided in s. 1006.22(12), and must use the occupant crash  
7 | protection system installed in the vehicle ~~provided by the~~  
8 | ~~manufacturer~~, which system must comply with the requirements  
9 | of 49 C.F.R. part 571 or with specifications of the State  
10 | Board of Education.

11 |       Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 1006.261, Florida  
12 | Statutes, is amended to read:

13 |       1006.261 Use of school buses for public purposes.--

14 |       (3) When the buses are used for nonschool purposes  
15 | other than the transportation of the transportation  
16 | disadvantaged, the flashing red lights and white strobe lights  
17 | shall not be used, and the "School Bus" inscriptions on the  
18 | front and rear of the buses and any sign of sponsorship under  
19 | s. 1006.273 shall be covered or concealed.

20 |       Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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22 |                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
23 |                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
24 |                   Senate Bill 622

25 | This committee substitute expands sponsor immunity from  
26 | liability to prohibit a sponsor from being named on a jury  
27 | verdict form, deemed, or found to be at fault or responsible  
28 | in any action relating to seat belt assembly on a school bus.  
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