

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to school bus safety; creating the "Diana
3 Kautz Student Safety Sponsors Act"; creating s. 1006.273,
4 F.S.; providing for district school boards to adopt
5 policies for private sponsorship of described seat belt
6 assemblies on school buses; providing for a sponsorship
7 fee; providing for use of moneys collected; providing for
8 signage on the exterior of the school bus acknowledging
9 sponsorship; providing for design and size of the signage
10 by local school board policy; limiting the liability of
11 sponsors; amending s. 1006.25, F.S.; requiring sponsor
12 signs to be covered when school buses are transporting
13 passengers who are not school students; revising the
14 requirement that students use the crash protection system
15 on a school bus; amending s. 1006.261, F.S.; requiring
16 sponsor signs to be covered when school buses are used for
17 nonschool purposes; providing an effective date.

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

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21 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Diana Kautz
22 Student Safety Sponsors Act."

23 Section 2. Section 1006.273, Florida Statutes, is created
24 to read:

25 1006.273 Crash protection systems; sponsorship.--A
26 district school board may adopt policies providing for private
27 sponsorship of the installation of crash protection equipment on
28 school buses pursuant to the provisions of this section.

29 (1) (a) Any person or business entity may sponsor the
30 installation of seat belt assemblies as described in subsection
31 (3) on a school bus by paying a sponsorship fee as prescribed by
32 local school board policy. Proceeds from the collection of the
33 fee shall be distributed as follows:

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

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

38 3. The remaining funds shall be remitted to the state for
39 deposit into the General Revenue Fund to be used for
40 transportation purposes.

41 (b) There may be up to four business entity sponsors per
42 school bus. Sponsorships or cosponsorships by individuals shall
43 be as provided by district school board policy.

44 (2) (a) Upon request by the sponsor, the district school
45 board shall place signage on the exterior rear, lower-quarter
46 panels of the school bus acknowledging the sponsor and, if the
47 sponsor is a business entity, bearing the logo of the business
48 entity. However, no sponsor shall be required to have his or her
49 name or the name of the business entity placed on the school
50 bus.

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

53 (c) The design and size of the signage shall be as
54 prescribed by local school board policy.

55 (3) The school bus must be equipped with a seat belt
56 assembly that meets the requirements for type 2 seat belt

57 assemblies established under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety
 58 Standard No. 209, 49 C.F.R. s. 571.209, or with any other pelvic
 59 and upper torso restraint system approved by the Federal
 60 Government in a number sufficient to allow each student who is
 61 being transported to use a separate pelvic and upper torso
 62 restraint system.

63 (4) District school board policy under this section shall
 64 provide for sponsorship of seat belt assembly installation on
 65 new purchases of school buses.

66 (5) Sponsorship under this section shall not impose or
 67 imply any duty or responsibility on the sponsor for installation
 68 or use of any seat belt assembly on any school bus, and, in any
 69 action relating to the installation, use, disuse, or misuse of
 70 any seat belt assembly on a school bus, no liability shall
 71 accrue to any person or business entity because that person or
 72 entity is a sponsor of seat belt assemblies under this section.

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

75 1006.25 School buses.--School buses shall be defined and
 76 meet specifications as follows:

77 (3) STANDARDS FOR LEASED VEHICLES.--A motor vehicle owned
 78 and operated by a county or municipal transit authority that is
 79 leased by the district school board for transportation of public
 80 school students must meet such standards as the State Board of
 81 Education establishes by rule. A school bus authorized by a
 82 district school board to carry passengers other than school
 83 students must have the words "School Bus" and any other signs
 84 and insignia that mark or designate it as a school bus and any

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85 sign of sponsorship under s. 1006.273 covered, removed, or
86 otherwise concealed while such passengers are being transported.

87 (4) OCCUPANT PROTECTION SYSTEMS.--Students may be
88 transported only in designated seating positions, except as
89 provided in s. 1006.22(12), and must use the occupant crash
90 protection system installed in the vehicle ~~provided by the~~
91 ~~manufacturer~~, which system must comply with the requirements of
92 49 C.F.R. part 571 or with specifications of the State Board of
93 Education.

94 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 1006.261, Florida
95 Statutes, is amended to read:

96 1006.261 Use of school buses for public purposes.--

97 (3) When the buses are used for nonschool purposes other
98 than the transportation of the transportation disadvantaged, the
99 flashing red lights and white strobe lights shall not be used,
100 and the "School Bus" inscriptions on the front and rear of the
101 buses and any sign of sponsorship under s. 1006.273 shall be
102 covered or concealed.

103 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.