

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 or other safety equipment on school buses;
 7 providing for a sponsorship fee; providing for use of
 8 moneys collected; providing for signage on the exterior of
 9 the school bus acknowledging sponsorship; providing for
 10 design and size of the signage by local school board
 11 policy; limiting the liability of sponsors; amending s.
 12 1006.25, F.S.; requiring sponsor signs to be covered when
 13 school buses are transporting passengers who are not
 14 school students; revising the requirement that students
 15 use the crash protection system on a school bus; amending
 16 s. 1006.261, F.S.; requiring sponsor signs to be covered
 17 when school buses are used for nonschool purposes;
 18 providing an effective date.

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

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

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

26 1006.273 Crash protection systems or other safety
 27 equipment; sponsorship.--A district school board may adopt
 28 policies providing for private sponsorship of the installation

29 of crash protection equipment or other safety equipment on
30 school buses pursuant to the provisions of this section.

31 (1) (a) Any person or business entity may sponsor the
32 installation of seat belt assemblies or other safety equipment
33 on a school bus by paying a sponsorship fee as prescribed by
34 local school board policy. Proceeds from the collection of the
35 fee shall be distributed as follows:

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

38 2. Up to 45 percent shall be used to pay for the cost of
39 the seat belt assemblies or other safety equipment and the cost
40 of installation.

41 3. The remaining funds shall be remitted to the state for
42 deposit into the General Revenue Fund to be used for
43 transportation purposes.

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

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

54 (b) The acknowledgment shall bear the wording "Safety
55 equipment sponsored by" followed by the name of the sponsor.

56 (c) The design and size of the signage shall be as

57 prescribed by local school board policy.

58 (3) If sponsorship is applied to seat belt assembly, the
59 school bus must be equipped with a seat belt assembly that meets
60 the requirements for type 2 seat belt assemblies established
61 under Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209, 49 C.F.R.
62 s. 571.209, or with any other pelvic and upper torso restraint
63 system approved by the Federal Government in a number sufficient
64 to allow each student who is being transported to use a separate
65 pelvic and upper torso restraint system.

66 (4) 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 or other safety equipment on
69 any school bus, and, in any action relating to the installation,
70 use, disuse, or misuse of any seat belt assembly or other safety
71 equipment on a school bus, no liability shall accrue to any
72 person or business entity because that person or entity is a
73 sponsor under this section.

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

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

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

85 and insignia that mark or designate it as a school bus and any
86 sign of sponsorship under s. 1006.273 covered, removed, or
87 otherwise concealed while such passengers are being transported.

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

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

97 1006.261 Use of school buses for public purposes.--

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

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