

By Senator Aronberg

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to school bus safety; providing a short  
3 title; creating s. 1006.273, F.S.; providing for district  
4 school boards to adopt policies for private sponsorship of  
5 described seat belt assemblies or other safety equipment  
6 on school buses; providing for a sponsorship fee;  
7 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.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20  
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 or other safety  
26 equipment; sponsorship.--A district school board may adopt  
27 policies providing for private sponsorship of the installation of  
28 crash protection equipment or other safety equipment on school  
29 buses pursuant to the provisions of this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

56       (3) If sponsorship is applied to seat belt assembly, the  
57 school bus must be equipped with a seat belt assembly that meets  
58 the requirements for type 2 seat belt assemblies established

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

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

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

74 1006.25 School buses.--School buses shall be defined and  
75 meet specifications as follows:

76 (3) STANDARDS FOR LEASED VEHICLES.--A motor vehicle owned  
77 and operated by a county or municipal transit authority that is  
78 leased by the district school board for transportation of public  
79 school students must meet such standards as the State Board of  
80 Education establishes by rule. A school bus authorized by a  
81 district school board to carry passengers other than school  
82 students must have the words "School Bus" and any other signs and  
83 insignia that mark or designate it as a school bus and any sign  
84 of sponsorship under s. 1006.273 covered, removed, or otherwise  
85 concealed while such passengers are being transported.

86 (4) OCCUPANT PROTECTION SYSTEMS.--Students may be  
87 transported only in designated seating positions, except as

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88 | provided in s. 1006.22(12), and must use the occupant crash  
89 | protection system installed in the vehicle ~~provided by the~~  
90 | ~~manufacturer~~, which system must comply with the requirements of  
91 | 49 C.F.R. part 571 or with specifications of the State Board of  
92 | Education.

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

95 |       1006.261 Use of school buses for public purposes.--

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

102 |       Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.