

By Senator Hutson

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to air-conditioning systems in school  
3       buses; amending s. 1006.25, F.S.; requiring that all  
4       school buses be equipped with air-conditioning systems  
5       that meet certain specifications beginning in a  
6       specified school year; requiring the State Board of  
7       Education to adopt by rule air-conditioning system  
8       specifications; providing an effective date.

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

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12       Section 1. Section 1006.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
13       read:

14       1006.25 School buses. ~~School buses shall be defined and~~  
15       ~~meet specifications as follows:~~

16       (1) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this part, a "school  
17       bus" is a motor vehicle regularly used for the transportation of  
18       prekindergarten disability program and kindergarten through  
19       grade 12 students of the public schools to and from school or to  
20       and from school activities, and owned, operated, rented,  
21       contracted, or leased by any district school board, except:

22       (a) Passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, and  
23       trucks as defined in 49 C.F.R. part 571.

24       (b) Motor vehicles subject to, and meeting all requirements  
25       of, the United States Department of Transportation, Federal  
26       Motor Carrier Safety Regulations under Title 49, Code of Federal  
27       Regulations and operated by carriers operating under the  
28       jurisdiction of these regulations but not used exclusively for  
29       the transportation of public school students.

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30 (2) SPECIFICATIONS.—Each school bus as defined in 49 C.F.R.  
31 part 571 and subsection (1) that is rented, leased, purchased,  
32 or contracted for must meet the applicable federal motor vehicle  
33 safety standards and other specifications as prescribed by rules  
34 of the State Board of Education.

35 (3) STANDARDS FOR LEASED VEHICLES.—A motor vehicle owned  
36 and operated by a county or municipal transit authority that is  
37 leased by the district school board for transportation of public  
38 school students must meet such standards as the State Board of  
39 Education establishes by rule. A school bus authorized by a  
40 district school board to carry passengers other than school  
41 students must have the words "School Bus" and any other signs  
42 and insignia that mark or designate it as a school bus covered,  
43 removed, or otherwise concealed while such passengers are being  
44 transported.

45 (4) OCCUPANT PROTECTION SYSTEMS.—Students may be  
46 transported only in designated seating positions, except as  
47 provided in s. 1006.22(12), and must use the occupant crash  
48 protection system provided by the manufacturer, which system  
49 must comply with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 571 or with  
50 specifications of the State Board of Education.

51 (5) AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS.—Beginning with the 2022-2023  
52 school year, each school bus must be equipped with a fully  
53 functional air-conditioning system. The State Board of Education  
54 shall adopt by rule, and each school bus must meet,  
55 specifications for school bus air-conditioning systems.

56 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.