

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to K-12 school transportation;
3 amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; requiring school districts
4 to provide transportation to students in kindergarten
5 through grade 12 under certain circumstances;
6 requiring parents to provide written consent for all
7 school district transportation; amending s. 1006.21,
8 F.S.; requiring district school boards to provide
9 transportation to students in kindergarten through
10 grade 12 who live more than 1 mile from the nearest
11 appropriate school; providing requirements for school
12 bus stops and transportation routes; requiring the use
13 of artificial intelligence programs for specified
14 purposes within a certain timeframe of such programs
15 being made available; providing penalties for district
16 school boards that fail meet such requirements;
17 defining the term "artificial intelligence programs";
18 amending s. 1006.23, F.S.; revising the criteria for
19 walkways parallel and perpendicular to the road to be
20 considered a hazardous walking condition; requiring
21 governmental entities to provide a specified
22 inspection within a certain timeframe relating to
23 hazardous walking conditions; providing that certain
24 students may continue to receive school district
25 transportation for a certain time period; providing an

effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (22) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following:

(22) TRANSPORTATION.—

(b) Hazardous walking conditions.—K-12 ~~K-6~~ public school students shall be provided transportation if they are subjected to hazardous walking conditions, in accordance with the provisions of ss. 1006.21(3)(b) and 1006.23.

(c) Parental consent.—Each parent of a public school student must be notified in writing and give written consent before the school district may provide transportation for a student, including being ~~may be~~ transported in a privately owned motor vehicle to school or a school function.

Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (h) of subsection (3) of section 1006.21, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (f) through (k), respectively, paragraphs (a) and (b)

51 **of subsection (3) are amended, and new paragraphs (c) through**
52 **(e) are added to that subsection, to read:**

53 1006.21 Duties of district school superintendent and
54 district school board regarding transportation.—

55 (3) District school boards, after considering
56 recommendations of the district school superintendent:

57 (a) Shall provide transportation for each student in
58 prekindergarten disability programs and in kindergarten through
59 grade 12 membership in a public school when, and only when,
60 transportation is necessary to provide adequate educational
61 facilities and opportunities which otherwise would not be
62 available and to transport students whose homes are more than 1
63 mile ~~a reasonable walking distance, as defined by rules of the~~
64 ~~State Board of Education,~~ from the nearest appropriate school.

65 (b) Shall provide transportation for ~~public elementary~~
66 ~~school~~ students in kindergarten through grade 12 membership
67 ~~whose grade level does not exceed grade 6, and may provide~~
68 ~~transportation for public school students in membership in~~
69 ~~grades 7 through 12,~~ if such students are subjected to hazardous
70 walking conditions as provided in s. 1006.23 while en route to
71 or from school.

72 (c) Shall ensure that each student's school bus stop is
73 not more than 1,000 feet from the home of the student.

74 (d) Shall ensure that transportation routes are the
75 fastest and most efficient routes possible for the

76 transportation of students to and from school. For purposes of
77 this paragraph, the term "fastest and most efficient" means the
78 least amount of time on a bus and the least amount of stops for
79 a student while preventing the most backup of traffic on the
80 street.

81 (e) If available, shall use artificial intelligence
82 programs to help determine safe, efficient, and the fastest
83 transportation routes. District school boards must implement the
84 use of such programs within 3 years after such programs becoming
85 available. If a district school board fails to use such
86 programs, the district shall receive a 15 percent reduction in
87 state funds for the transportation of students under s. 1011.68
88 each year until the district school board is in compliance with
89 the requirements of this paragraph. For purposes of this
90 paragraph, the term "artificial intelligence programs" means
91 software that uses machine learning and predictive analytics to
92 evaluate diverse routing scenarios and optimize student
93 transportation efficiency.

94 **Section 3. Subsections (1) through (3) of section 1006.23,**
95 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

96 1006.23 Hazardous walking conditions.—

97 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
98 "student" means any public elementary school student whose grade
99 level does not exceed grade 12 ~~6~~.

100 (2) HAZARDOUS WALKING CONDITIONS.—

(a) Walkways parallel to the road.—

1. It shall be considered a hazardous walking condition with respect to any road along which students must walk in order to walk to and from school if:

a. There is not a sidewalk adjacent to the road.

~~b. an area at least 4 feet wide adjacent to the road, not including drainage ditches, sluiceways, swales, or channels, having a surface upon which students may walk without being required to walk on the road surface. In addition, whenever The road along which students must walk is uncurbed and has a posted speed limit of 50 miles per hour or greater, the area as described above for students to walk upon shall be set off the road by no less than 3 feet from the edge of the road.~~

c. The student must walk along a roadway within 4 feet of lanes of traffic.

d. The student must at any point walk in the dark.

e. The student must travel along a roadway that is 30 miles per hour or greater.

f. A student must walk within 3 miles of a sexual offender or sexual predator.

2. Subparagraph 1. does not apply when the road along which students must walk:

a. Is a road on which the volume of traffic is less than 180 vehicles per hour, per direction, during the time students walk to and from school; or

126 b. Is located in a residential area and has a posted speed
127 limit of 30 miles per hour or less.

128 (b) Walkways perpendicular to the road.—It shall be
129 considered a hazardous walking condition with respect to any
130 road across which students must walk in order to walk to and
131 from school if:

132 1. ~~The traffic volume on the road exceeds the rate of 360~~
133 ~~vehicles per hour, per direction (including all lanes), during~~
134 ~~the time students walk to and from school and if~~ The crossing
135 site is uncontrolled. For purposes of this subsection, an
136 "uncontrolled crossing site" is an intersection or other
137 designated crossing site where no crossing guard, traffic
138 enforcement officer, or stop sign or other traffic control
139 signal is present during the times students walk to and from
140 school.

141 2. The total traffic volume on the road exceeds 4,000
142 vehicles per hour through an intersection or other crossing site
143 controlled by a stop sign or other traffic control signal,
144 unless crossing guards or other traffic enforcement officers are
145 also present during the times students walk to and from school.

146
147 Traffic volume shall be determined by the most current traffic
148 engineering study conducted by a state or local governmental
149 agency.

150 (c) Crossings over the road.—It shall be considered a

151 hazardous walking condition with respect to any road at any
152 uncontrolled crossing site which students must walk in order to
153 walk to and from school if:

154 1. The road has a posted speed limit of 50 miles per hour
155 or greater; or

156 2. The road has six lanes or more, not including turn
157 lanes, regardless of the speed limit.

158 (3) IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS.—

159 (a) When a request for review is made by the district
160 school superintendent with respect to a road over which a state
161 or local governmental entity has jurisdiction concerning a
162 condition perceived to be hazardous to students in that district
163 who live within the 1-mile ~~2-mile~~ limit and who walk to school,
164 such condition shall be inspected within 72 hours after the
165 request jointly by a representative of the school district, a
166 representative of the state or local governmental entity with
167 jurisdiction over the perceived hazardous location, and a
168 representative of the municipal police department for a
169 municipal road, a representative of the sheriff's office for a
170 county road, or a representative of the Department of
171 Transportation for a state road. If the jurisdiction is within
172 an area for which there is a metropolitan planning organization,
173 a representative of that organization shall also be included.
174 The governmental representatives shall determine whether the
175 condition constitutes a hazardous walking condition as provided

176 in subsection (2). If the governmental representatives concur
177 that a condition constitutes a hazardous walking condition as
178 provided in subsection (2), the governmental entity with
179 jurisdiction shall report that determination in writing to the
180 district school superintendent, who shall initiate a formal
181 request for correction as provided in subsection (4). A student
182 who is subjected to the hazardous walking condition is eligible
183 for school district transportation for as long as the student
184 resides at the address and is enrolled at a school in the school
185 district.

186 (b) If the governmental representatives are unable to
187 reach a consensus, the reasons for lack of consensus shall be
188 reported to the district school superintendent, who shall
189 provide a report and recommendation to the district school
190 board. The district school board may initiate a proceeding under
191 chapter 86 seeking a determination as to whether the condition
192 constitutes a hazardous walking condition as provided in
193 subsection (2) after providing at least 30 days' notice in
194 writing to the state or local governmental entity having
195 jurisdiction over the road of its intent to do so unless, within
196 30 days after such notice is provided, the state or local
197 governmental entity concurs in writing that the condition is a
198 hazardous walking condition as provided in subsection (2) and
199 provides the position statement pursuant to subsection (4). If a
200 proceeding is initiated under this paragraph, the district

201 school board has the burden of proving such condition by the
202 greater weight of evidence. If the district school board
203 prevails, the district school superintendent shall report the
204 outcome to the Department of Education and initiate a formal
205 request for correction of the hazardous walking condition as
206 provided in subsection (4).

207 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.