

By Senator Collins

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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  
26       effective date.

27  
28   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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30 Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (22) of  
31 section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

32 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public  
33 school students must receive accurate and timely information  
34 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed  
35 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12  
36 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory  
37 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

38 (22) TRANSPORTATION.—

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

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

48 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (h) of subsection (3) of  
49 section 1006.21, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
50 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

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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 not  
73 more than 1,000 feet from the home of the student.

74 (d) Shall ensure that transportation routes are the fastest  
75 and most efficient routes possible for the transportation of  
76 students to and from school. For purposes of this paragraph, the  
77 term "fastest and most efficient" means the least amount of time  
78 on a bus and the least amount of stops for a student while  
79 preventing the most backup of traffic on the street.

80 (e) If available, shall use artificial intelligence  
81 programs to help determine safe, efficient, and the fastest  
82 transportation routes. District school boards shall implement  
83 the use of such programs within 3 years after such programs  
84 becoming available. If a district school board fails to use such  
85 programs, the district must receive a 15 percent reduction in  
86 state funds for the transportation of students under s. 1011.68  
87 each year until the district school board is in compliance with

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88 the requirements of this paragraph. For purposes of this  
89 paragraph, the term "artificial intelligence programs" means  
90 software that uses machine learning and predictive analytics to  
91 evaluate diverse routing scenarios and optimize student  
92 transportation efficiency.

93 Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
94 1006.23, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

95 1006.23 Hazardous walking conditions.—

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

99 (2) HAZARDOUS WALKING CONDITIONS.—

100 (a) *Walkways parallel to the road.*—

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

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

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

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

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

116 e. The student must travel along a roadway that is 30 miles

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117 per hour or greater.

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

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

122 a. Is a road on which the volume of traffic is less than  
123 180 vehicles per hour, per direction, during the time students  
124 walk to and from school; or

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

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

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

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

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

149 (c) *Crossings over the road.*—It shall be considered a  
150 hazardous walking condition with respect to any road at any  
151 uncontrolled crossing site which students must walk in order to  
152 walk to and from school if:

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

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

157 (3) IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS.—

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

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

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

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204 request for correction of the hazardous walking condition as  
205 provided in subsection (4).

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