

Date of State Budget Office Approval:

Date Requested: Tuesday, February 02, 2016

Date Due: Friday, February 12, 2016

<i>Impact on Expenditures</i>		<i>Impact on Revenues</i>	
FY 2016	n/a	FY 2016	n/a
FY 2017	Indeterminate	FY 2017	\$0
FY 2018	Indeterminate	FY 2018	\$0

Explanation by State Budget Office: House bill H-7155 would amend §31-23-41 of the Rhode Island General Laws entitled "Equipment and Accessories Generally". This legislation would require all new school buses purchased or leased for use in the state be equipped with seat belts for each passenger and operator seat, and would require each school district to adopt an implementation plan to train students and staff on the use of seat belts and evacuation plans in the case of an emergency.

Comments on Sources of Funds: Any state resources that may be made available to school districts as a result of this legislation would be from general revenue.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions: This act takes effect upon passage but the assumed implementation date of the act is July 1, 2016.

Acquisition of or contracting for the use of schools buses is the responsibility of the local municipalities and school districts and therefore there is not anticipated to be a direct cost to the state from this act. However, the state does provide some funding through the transportation categorical fund to support inter-district transportation of students and also provides a statewide contract for transportation services for those districts that choose to participate.

The Governor recommends \$4.4 million for the transportation categorical fund in FY 2017, consistent with the FY 2016 enacted (and revised) level. The transportation categorical is used to reimburse districts for a portion of the cost of transporting students outside their districts. Districts must participate in the statewide transportation system to be eligible for funding from this categorical fund. Reimbursement for regional school district transportation accounts for approximately half of the categorical.

The cost to outfit a school bus with a lap/shoulder belt system is estimated to cost an additional \$6,000-\$10,000 per bus. The legislation only requires that new school buses purchased or leased for use in the state be equipped with seat belts. Since the number of new school buses acquired in a given year varies, the cost of this legislation is not determinable for the fiscal years in question, but is not likely to have any direct cost to the state.

Summary of Fiscal Impact: FY 2016: Not applicable given the assumed implementation date of the act.
 FY 2017: Indeterminate
 FY 2018: Indeterminate

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Sunday, April 03, 2016

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