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SENATE BILL 5476

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 Regular Session

By Senator Murray; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 01/26/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to school bus depreciation; amending RCW  
2 28A.160.200; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.160.200 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 10 s 2 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6            (1) The superintendent shall annually develop a reimbursement  
7 schedule to pay districts for the cost of ~~((student transportation~~  
8 ~~vehieles))~~ school buses purchased ~~((after September 1, 1982))~~ by school  
9 districts. While it is the responsibility of each district to select  
10 and pay for each student transportation vehicle purchased by the  
11 district, each district shall be paid ~~((a sum based on the category of~~  
12 ~~vehiele, anticipated lifetime of vehieles of this category, and state))~~  
13 the reimbursement rate ((for the category plus inflation as recognized  
14 by the reimbursement schedule established in this section as set by the  
15 superintendent)) of each at the end of the anticipated lifetime of  
16 vehicles of this category, less any reimbursement payments previously  
17 paid by the state for the bus. Categories and reimbursement rates of  
18 vehicles shall be those established under RCW 28A.160.195. The  
19 ~~((accumulated value of the payments and the potential investment return~~

1 thereon)) reimbursement rate shall be designed to be equal to the  
2 replacement cost of the vehicle less its salvage value at the end of  
3 its anticipated lifetime. (~~The superintendent shall revise at least~~  
4 ~~annually the reimbursement payments based on the current and~~  
5 ~~anticipated future cost of comparable categories of transportation~~  
6 ~~equipment.)) Reimbursements to school districts for approved  
7 transportation equipment shall be placed in a separate transportation  
8 vehicle fund established for each school district under RCW  
9 28A.160.130. However, educational service districts providing student  
10 transportation services pursuant to RCW 28A.310.180(4) and receiving  
11 moneys generated pursuant to this section shall establish and maintain  
12 a separate transportation vehicle account in the educational service  
13 district's general expense fund for the purposes and subject to the  
14 conditions under RCW 28A.160.130 and 28A.320.300.~~

15 (2) To the extent possible, districts shall operate vehicles  
16 acquired under this section not less than the number of years or useful  
17 lifetime now, or hereafter, assigned to the category of vehicles by the  
18 superintendent. School districts shall properly maintain the  
19 transportation equipment acquired under the provisions of this section,  
20 in accordance with (~~rules established by the office of the~~  
21 ~~superintendent of public instruction~~) generally accepted industry  
22 standards. If a district fails to follow generally accepted standards  
23 of maintenance and operation, the superintendent of public instruction  
24 shall penalize the district by deducting from future reimbursements  
25 under this section an amount equal to the original cost of the vehicle  
26 multiplied by the fraction of the useful lifetime or miles the vehicle  
27 failed to operate.

28 (3) The superintendent shall annually develop a depreciation  
29 schedule to recognize the cost of depreciation to districts contracting  
30 with private carriers for student transportation. Payments on this  
31 schedule shall be a straight line depreciation based on the original  
32 cost of the appropriate category of vehicle.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
35 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect

1 July 1, 2011.

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