
Education Committee

SB 5263

Brief Description: Concerning school bus driver requirements.

Sponsors: Senator Zeiger.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt administrative rules that lessen burdens in hiring and training school bus drivers.

Hearing Date: 3/25/19

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) is authorized to adopt administrative rules governing the qualifications and training of school bus drivers. Among other requirements, the rules must be designed to ensure that persons will not be employed to operate school buses unless they possess the physical health and driving skills that are necessary to safely operate school buses. Additionally, the rules adopted by the SPI may not conflict with the authority of the Department of Licensing (DOL) to license school bus drivers.

School bus drivers are required to possess a commercial driver's license (CDL) and the proper endorsement. In Washington, the issuance of CDLs are governed by requirements of the DOL, but each state is required to adopt and administer a licensing program for CDLs that complies with minimum federal standards for commercial motor vehicle operators.

Summary of Bill:

The SPI is directed to adopt administrative rules that lessen burdens in hiring and training school bus drivers, including training hour requirements and training content. Rules adopted in accordance with this directive must comply with existing federal regulations.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.