SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5922

As Passed Senate, February 12, 2026

Title: An act relating to transportation vehicle fund transfers.

Brief Description: Authorizing transportation vehicle fund transfers.

Sponsors: Senators Wellman, Hansen, Frame and Nobles.

Brief History:
Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/13/26, 1/14/26 [DP].
Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 2/12/26, 49-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows a school district to transfer vehicle depreciation payments and earned interest from its transportation vehicle fund to another fund when reducing its vehicle fleet, subject to approval by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Majority Report: Do pass.
Signed by Senators Wellman, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair; Wilson, C., Vice Chair; Harris, Ranking Member; Cortes, Dozier, Hansen, Krishnadasan and McCune.

Staff: Alex Fairfortune (786-7416)

Background: School Bus Purchasing and Reimbursement. School districts are responsible for selecting, paying for, and maintaining student transportation vehicles purchased by the district. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is responsible for developing categories and competitive specifications for school bus acquisitions as well as a corresponding list of school bus dealers with the lowest purchase price quotes. School

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districts and educational service districts that purchase buses through this competitive quote process or through a separate lowest-price competitive bid process are eligible for certain state funds based on the category of vehicle, the anticipated lifetime of vehicles of this category, and a state reimbursement rate. The accumulated value of the state payments received by the district and the potential investment return is designed to be equal to the replacement cost of the vehicle, less its salvage value, at the end of its anticipated lifetime.

Transportation Vehicle Fund. Each school district has a transportation vehicle fund that holds reimbursement payments for pupil transportation vehicle depreciation, proceeds from pupil transportation vehicle sales, and earnings from the fund's investments. Money within this fund may be expended only for specific purposes, including the purchase and maintenance of pupil transportation vehicles and certain expenditures related to transitioning to electric or zero emission vehicles. OSPI adopts rules to establish the standards, conditions, and procedures governing the establishment and use of the transportation vehicle fund, but is prohibited from adopting rules that permit the transfer of funds from the transportation vehicle fund to any other fund of the district.

Summary of Bill: If a school district chooses to reduce its overall fleet of student transportation vehicles by forgoing vehicle replacement it may petition OSPI for permission to transfer money from its transportation vehicle fund to another fund for alternative use. The money that may be transferred includes depreciation payments and earned interest from a fully depreciated vehicle.

If OSPI determines the reduction in student transportation vehicles is appropriate due to forecasted declines in student enrollment or other relevant factors affecting the district's transportation program, the petition must be approved.

OSPI rulemaking authority is modified to allow for such transfers to take place.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 6, 2026.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This is a way for a school district to transfer funds when those funds are no longer needed. As populations decline schools may not need another school bus and the funds should be used elsewhere.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Lisa Wellman, Prime Sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.