

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 13, 2017

TO: Honorable Robert Nichols, Chair, Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB693 by Garcia (Relating to three-point seat belts on buses that transport schoolchildren.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

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| <p>No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</p> |
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Under existing law, a school bus or school activity bus operated or contracted for use by a school district must be equipped with a three-point seat belt for each passenger. This requirement applies to each school bus purchased on or after September 1, 2010 and each school-chartered bus contracted for use on or after September 1, 2011.

The bill would amend Transportation Code Sec. 547.701 to expand the type of vehicles to which the three-point seat belt requirement applies to include a "multifunction school activity bus" or a "school-chartered bus." Under the provisions of the bill, the three-point seat belt requirement would not apply to vehicles with a model year of 2017 or earlier. The requirement also would not apply to a vehicle with a model year of 2018 or later if a school district's board of trustees determines that the school district's finances could not support the purchase of a bus with three-point seatbelts, provided that the board votes on such a determination in a public hearing.

The bill would repeal language stating that school districts only had to comply with the three-point seat belt requirement to the extent that the Legislature appropriated money to reimburse school districts for complying with the requirement.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 701 Texas Education Agency

LBB Staff: UP, AG, AM, THo