

1-1 By: Menéndez S.B. No. 546
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed December 6, 2024; February 3, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;
1-4 April 14, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 2; April 14, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Nichols	X			
1-10	West	X			
1-11	Bettencourt		X		
1-12	Hagenbuch		X		
1-13	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
1-14	Johnson	X			
1-15	King			X	
1-16	Miles	X			
1-17	Perry	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 546 By: Hinojosa of Hidalgo

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to seat belts on buses that transport children.
1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-23 SECTION 1. Section 547.701, Transportation Code, is amended
1-24 by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsections (f), (g), and (h)
1-25 to read as follows:
1-26 (e) In this subsection, "bus" includes a school bus, school
1-27 activity bus, multifunction school activity bus, or
1-28 school-chartered bus. Except as otherwise provided by this
1-29 subsection, a [A] bus operated by or contracted for use by a school
1-30 district for the transportation of schoolchildren shall be equipped
1-31 with a three-point seat belt for each passenger, including the
1-32 operator. This subsection does not apply to:
1-33 (1) a bus operated by or contracted for use [purchased
1-34 by a school district that is a model year 2017 or earlier, or
1-35 [(2) a bus purchased] by a school district [that is a
1-36 model year 2018 or later] if the board of trustees for the school
1-37 district[-
1-38 [(A)] determines that the district's budget does
1-39 not permit the district to purchase a bus that is equipped with the
1-40 seat belts required by this subsection; or
1-41 (2) a bus for which the warranty would become void if
1-42 the bus were equipped to comply with this subsection[-, and
1-43 [(B) votes to approve that determination in a
1-44 public meeting] .
1-45 (f) The board of trustees of a school district that makes a
1-46 determination under Subsection (e)(1) shall submit to the Texas
1-47 Education Agency and present in a public meeting of the board a
1-48 report that includes:
1-49 (1) the number of buses operated by or contracted for
1-50 use by the district that:
1-51 (A) are not equipped with seat belts;
1-52 (B) are equipped with two-point seat belts; and
1-53 (C) are equipped with three-point seat belts; and
1-54 (2) the estimated cost to the district to equip with
1-55 three-point seat belts each bus operated by or contracted for use by
1-56 the district that is not equipped with three-point seat belts as
1-57 required by Subsection (e).
1-58 (g) The Texas Education Agency shall:
1-59 (1) collect the information submitted under
1-60 Subsection (f);

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