

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4488

To amend title 23, United States Code, to include school bus route safety in the safe routes to school program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2026

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to include school bus route safety in the safe routes to school program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Safe Bus Routes to  
5 School Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SAFE BUS ROUTES TO SCHOOL.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208 of title 23, United  
8 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
 2 following:

3 “(3) SCHOOL BUS ROUTE.—The term ‘school  
 4 bus route’ means a designated course regularly trav-  
 5 eled by a school bus for to-and-from transportation  
 6 to pick up students and take them to school or to  
 7 deliver students from school to their homes or to  
 8 designated bus stops that are approved by the local  
 9 education agency.”;

10 (2) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and”  
 12 after the semicolon at the end;

13 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-  
 14 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(4) to facilitate the planning, development,  
 17 and implementation of projects and activities that  
 18 will support safer school bus routes and stops.”; and

19 (3) in subsection (g)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

21 (i) by striking the period at the end  
 22 and inserting “; and”;

23 (ii) by striking “may be used for the  
 24 planning” and inserting the following:

25 “may be used for—

1 “(i) the planning”; and

2 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
3 lowing:

4 “(ii) the planning, design, and con-  
5 struction of infrastructure-related projects  
6 that will substantially improve the ability  
7 of students to safely wait for and take a  
8 school bus to and from school, including  
9 sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and  
10 speed reduction improvements, pedestrian  
11 crossing improvements, waiting areas at  
12 bus stops, and traffic diversion improve-  
13 ments on a school bus route.”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

15 (i) by striking the period at the end  
16 and inserting “; and”;

17 (ii) by striking “noninfrastructure-re-  
18 lated activities to encourage” and inserting  
19 the following: “noninfrastructure-related  
20 activities—

21 “(i) to encourage”; and

22 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “(ii) to encourage safe school bus rid-  
25 ership, including public awareness cam-

1           paigns and outreach to press and commu-  
 2           nity leaders, traffic education and enforce-  
 3           ment in the vicinity of school bus routes,  
 4           and student sessions on school bus safety  
 5           rules.”.

6           (b) HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—  
 7   Section 148(a) of title 23, United States Code, is amend-  
 8   ed—

9           (1) in paragraph (4)(B)—

10           (A) by redesignating clause (xxix) as  
 11           clause (xxx);

12           (B) by inserting after clause (xxviii) the  
 13           following:

14           “(xxix) Safe routes to school infra-  
 15           structure-related projects described in sec-  
 16           tion 208(g)(1).”; and

17           (C) in clause (xxx) (as redesignated), by  
 18           striking “(xxviii)” and inserting “(xxix)”; and

19           (2) in paragraph (11)(B)(i), by inserting “and  
 20           school bus stop safety” after “road users”.

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