

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9733

To establish the School Bus Driver Shortage Task Force to address the nationwide school bus driver shortage, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Mr. MCGARVEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish the School Bus Driver Shortage Task Force to address the nationwide school bus driver shortage, 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 “School Bus Driver
5 Shortage Relief Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS**
7 **DRIVER SHORTAGE TASK FORCE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Edu-
10 cation, in consultation with the Secretary of Transpor-

1 tation, shall establish within the Department of Education
2 a task force, to be known as the “School Bus Driver
3 Shortage Task Force” (in this Act referred to as the
4 “Task Force”), to provide information and recommenda-
5 tions relating to increasing access to free, reliable, and
6 high-quality transportation for students enrolled in public
7 schools.

8 (b) DUTIES.—The Task Force—

9 (1) not later than 180 days after the establish-
10 ment of the Task Force, shall publish online, and
11 distribute to State educational agencies and local
12 educational agencies, an interim and accessible com-
13 pilation of resources, guidance, and evidence-based
14 information for State educational agencies and local
15 educational agencies containing best practices on
16 how—

17 (A) to increase access to free, reliable, and
18 high-quality transportation for students enrolled
19 in public schools; and

20 (B) to address disparities or shortages in
21 public school driver supply;

22 (2) not later than 60 days after the establish-
23 ment of the Task Force, and at least once each cal-
24 endar quarter thereafter until the Task Force is dis-

1 solved, shall recommend to the Secretary ideas for
2 guidance and regulations related to—

3 (A) increasing access to free, reliable, and
4 high-quality transportation for students enrolled
5 in public schools; and

6 (B) addressing disparities or shortages in
7 public school driver supply; and

8 (3) shall submit the reports required under sub-
9 section (e).

10 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

11 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Sec-
12 retary shall appoint not fewer than 10, and not more
13 than 15, individuals to the Task Force, including the
14 following:

15 (A) At least 1 representative from the De-
16 partment of Labor.

17 (B) At least 3 representatives from the
18 Department of Transportation.

19 (C) At least 2 representatives from labor
20 unions which represent public school bus driv-
21 ers.

22 (D) At least 1 representative from labor
23 unions which represent public school faculty
24 and staff.

1 (E) At least 1 representative from organi-
2 zations representing parents of students en-
3 rolled in a public school.

4 (F) At least 1 representative from civil
5 rights organizations.

6 (2) TERMS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the
8 Task Force shall be appointed for a term of 2
9 years or until the dissolution of the Task Force.
10 The Secretary may reappoint members to the
11 Task Force for such additional 2-year terms as
12 the Secretary determines appropriate.

13 (B) VACANCIES.—The Secretary shall fill a
14 vacancy in the Task Force in the same manner
15 as the original appointment not later than 30
16 days after the date on which such vacancy oc-
17 curs.

18 (3) BASIC PAY.—

19 (A) RATES OF PAY.—To the extent or in
20 the amounts provided in advance in appropria-
21 tion Acts, members of the Task Force shall
22 each be entitled to receive the daily equivalent
23 of the minimum annual rate of basic pay for
24 grade GS-12 of the General Schedule for each
25 day (including travel time) during which such

1 members are engaged in the actual performance
2 of duties vested in the Task Force.

3 (B) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION OF
4 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Task
5 Force who are full-time officers or employees of
6 the United States may not receive additional
7 pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their
8 service on the Task Force.

9 (4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
10 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of
11 subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions
12 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United
13 States Code.

14 (5) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
15 the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

16 (6) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
17 Task Force shall be elected by the members of the
18 Task Force. The term of office of the Chairperson
19 shall be 2 years. If the position of Chairperson be-
20 comes vacant, the members of the Task Force shall
21 select a new Chairperson not later than 30 days
22 after the date on which the position became vacant.

23 (7) MEETINGS.—The Task force shall meet not
24 less frequently than twice a quarter.

1 (8) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Task Force may
2 form subcommittees, which shall meet as often as re-
3 quired.

4 (d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS; STAFF OF FED-
5 ERAL AGENCIES.—

6 (1) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—With the
7 approval of the Task Force, the Chairperson may
8 procure temporary and intermittent services under
9 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

10 (2) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon re-
11 quest of the Chairperson, the head of any Federal
12 department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable
13 basis, any of the personnel of that department or
14 agency to the Task Force to assist it in carrying out
15 its duties under this Act.

16 (e) REPORTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of the first meeting of the Task Force, and
19 not less frequently than once every 2 years there-
20 after or until the dissolution of the Task Force, the
21 Task Force shall submit to the Secretary, to the
22 Committee on Education and the Workforce of the
23 House of Representatives and the Committee on
24 Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Sen-

1 ate, a report that includes the information in para-
2 graph (2).

3 (2) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—The reports sub-
4 mitted under paragraph (1) shall include each of the
5 following:

6 (A) The condition of public school trans-
7 portation in the United States, including any
8 disparities in the supply of public school bus
9 drivers on the basis of—

10 (i) geographic location (or urban or
11 rural status) of a public school or local
12 educational agency; and

13 (ii) demographic characteristics of en-
14 rolled students or their families, includ-
15 ing—

16 (I) race and ethnicity;

17 (II) foreign-born and English as
18 a second language status;

19 (III) income and wealth;

20 (IV) age; and

21 (V) disability status.

22 (B) A root-cause analysis of the trends in
23 the supply of public school bus drivers over the
24 20-year period preceding the date of enactment
25 of this Act.

1 (C) A comprehensive examination of com-
2 pensation for public school bus drivers includ-
3 ing—

- 4 (i) salary or hourly earnings;
- 5 (ii) offered hours of work per week;
- 6 (iii) summer employment, or access to
7 unemployment insurance;
- 8 (iv) retirement savings; and
- 9 (v) health care insurance.

10 (D) Consideration of working conditions
11 for public school bus drivers including—

- 12 (i) student discipline and behavior;
- 13 (ii) personal safety; and
- 14 (iii) school bus temperatures and ven-
15 tilation.

16 (E) Consideration of the impact of privat-
17 ization on the public school transportation sys-
18 tem.

19 (F) Recommendations to address and al-
20 leviate any disparities or shortages in the sup-
21 ply of public school bus drivers identified under
22 subparagraphs (A) through (E), including areas
23 for executive action and areas for legislative ac-
24 tion at the Federal and State level, and guid-

1 ance for State educational agencies and local
2 educational agencies.

3 **SEC. 3. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.**

4 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
6 States, shall submit to Congress and make publicly avail-
7 able, a report that identifies recommended changes at the
8 Federal executive and legislative levels to address any dis-
9 parities or shortages in the supply of public school bus
10 drivers.

11 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) **ESEA TERMS.**—The terms “elementary
14 school”, “local educational agency”, “parent”, “sec-
15 ondary school”, “Secretary”, and “State educational
16 agency” have the meanings given the terms in sec-
17 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

19 (2) **PUBLIC SCHOOL.**—The term “public
20 school” means—

21 (A) a public elementary school; and

22 (B) a public secondary school.

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