

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5625

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the Clean School Bus program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the Clean School Bus 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 “Clean Commute for
5 Kids Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 741 of the Energy Policy
8 Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16091) is amended to read as
9 follows:

1 **“SEC. 741. CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 “(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
4 trator’ means the Administrator of the Environ-
5 mental Protection Agency.

6 “(2) CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term
7 ‘charging infrastructure’, with respect to zero-emis-
8 sion school buses, includes bidirectional charging
9 equipment that can receive energy from electric vehi-
10 cle supply equipment and provide energy to an exter-
11 nal load when the bidirectional charging equipment
12 is paired with similarly capable electric vehicle sup-
13 ply equipment.

14 “(3) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term ‘com-
15 munity of color’ means a geographically distinct area
16 in which the population of any of the following cat-
17 egories of individuals is higher than the average pop-
18 ulation of that category for the State in which the
19 community is located:

20 “(A) Black.

21 “(B) African American.

22 “(C) Asian.

23 “(D) Pacific Islander.

24 “(E) Other non-White race.

25 “(F) Hispanic.

26 “(G) Latino.

1 “(H) Linguistically isolated.

2 “(I) Middle Eastern and North African.

3 “(4) ELIGIBLE CONTRACTOR.—The term ‘eligi-
4 ble contractor’ means a contractor that is a for-prof-
5 it, not-for-profit, or nonprofit entity that has the ca-
6 pacity—

7 “(A) to sell, lease, license, or contract for
8 service zero-emission school buses, charging in-
9 frastructure, or other equipment needed to
10 charge or maintain zero-emission school buses,
11 to individuals or entities that own, lease, li-
12 cense, or contract for service a school bus or a
13 fleet of school buses; or

14 “(B) to arrange financing for such a sale,
15 lease, license, or contract for service.

16 “(5) ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURER.—The term ‘el-
17 igible manufacturer’ means a manufacturer of zero-
18 emission school buses included on the list under sub-
19 section (b)(3)(A).

20 “(6) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
22 graph (B), the term ‘eligible recipient’ means—

23 “(i) 1 or more local, State, or Federal
24 governmental entities, including the Gen-

1 eral Services Administration, responsible
2 for—

3 “(I) providing school bus service
4 to 1 or more public school systems; or

5 “(II) the purchase, lease, license,
6 or contract for service of school buses;

7 “(ii) an eligible contractor;

8 “(iii) a nonprofit school transportation
9 association;

10 “(iv) a charter school (as defined in
11 section 4310 of the Elementary and Sec-
12 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
13 7221i)) responsible for the purchase, lease,
14 license, or contract for service of school
15 buses for that charter school; or

16 “(v) an Indian Tribe (as defined in
17 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
18 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
19 5304)), Tribal organization (as defined in
20 that section), or tribally controlled school
21 (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally
22 Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C.
23 2511)) that is responsible for—

24 “(I) providing school bus service
25 to 1 or more Bureau-funded schools

1 (as defined in section 1141 of the
2 Education Amendments of 1978 (25
3 U.S.C. 2021)); or

4 “(II) the purchase, lease, license,
5 or contract for service of school buses.

6 “(B) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.—In the
7 case of eligible recipients identified under
8 clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A), the
9 Administrator shall establish timely and appro-
10 priate requirements for notice and approval by
11 the public school systems that would be served
12 by school buses purchased using award funds
13 made available under this section.

14 “(7) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
15 CY.—The term ‘high-need local educational agency’
16 means a local educational agency that is among the
17 local educational agencies in the applicable State
18 with high percentages of children counted under sec-
19 tion 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)), on the basis
21 of the most recent satisfactory data available, as de-
22 termined by the Secretary of Education (or, for a
23 local educational agency for which no such data is
24 available, such other data as the Secretary of Edu-
25 cation determines to be satisfactory).

1 “(8) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
 2 ‘local educational agency’ has the meaning given the
 3 term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
 4 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

5 “(9) SCHOOL BUS.—The term ‘school bus’ has
 6 the meaning given the term ‘schoolbus’ in section
 7 30125(a) of title 49, United States Code.

8 “(10) U.S. JOBS PLAN.—The term ‘U.S. Jobs
 9 Plan’ means a plan submitted by a manufacturer of
 10 zero-emission school buses that seeks inclusion on
 11 the list of eligible manufacturers maintained under
 12 subsection (b)(3)(A), which shall include—

13 “(A) commitments for proposed wages,
 14 benefits, and employee training by the manufac-
 15 turer and the supply chain of the manufacturer
 16 for the manufacture of zero-emission school
 17 buses;

18 “(B) a commitment by the manufacturer
 19 and the supply chain of the manufacturer for
 20 the manufacture of zero-emission school buses
 21 to recruit and hire—

22 “(i) individuals with a barrier to em-
 23 ployment (as defined in section 3 of the
 24 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 25 (29 U.S.C. 3102));

1 “(ii) veterans;

2 “(iii) individuals who reside in low-in-
3 come or indigenous communities or com-
4 munities of color; and

5 “(iv) individuals that represent popu-
6 lations that are traditionally underrep-
7 resented in the manufacturing workforce,
8 such as women and racial and ethnic mi-
9 norities; and

10 “(C) a narrative description of how the
11 manufacturer and the supply chain of the man-
12 ufacturer will implement the commitment de-
13 scribed in subparagraph (B).

14 “(11) ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS.—The term
15 ‘zero-emission school bus’ means a school bus that
16 is certified by the Administrator to have a drivetrain
17 that produces, under any possible operational mode
18 or condition, zero exhaust emission of—

19 “(A) any air pollutant that is listed pursu-
20 ant to section 108(a) of the Clean Air Act (42
21 U.S.C. 7408(a)) (or any precursor to such an
22 air pollutant); and

23 “(B) any greenhouse gas.

24 “(b) PROGRAM FOR PURCHASE OF ZERO-EMISSION
25 SCHOOL BUSES.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
2 shall establish a program—

3 “(A) to award grants and rebates on a
4 competitive basis to eligible recipients for the
5 replacement of existing school buses with zero-
6 emission school buses;

7 “(B) to award grants and rebates on a
8 competitive basis to eligible recipients for the
9 purchase of new zero-emission school buses;

10 “(C) to award contracts to eligible contrac-
11 tors to provide grants and rebates for the re-
12 placement of existing school buses with zero-
13 emission school buses; and

14 “(D) to award contracts to eligible contrac-
15 tors to provide grants and rebates for the pur-
16 chase of new zero-emission school buses.

17 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant for an
19 award under paragraph (1) shall submit to the
20 Administrator an application at such time, in
21 such manner, and containing such information
22 as the Administrator may require, including—

23 “(i) a written assurance that—

24 “(I) all laborers and mechanics
25 employed by contractors or sub-

1 contractors during construction, alter-
2 ation, or repair that is financed, in
3 whole or in part, by an award under
4 paragraph (1), shall be paid wages at
5 rates not less than those prevailing in
6 a similar firm or on similar construc-
7 tion in the locality, as determined by
8 the Secretary of Labor in accordance
9 with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of
10 title 40, United States Code; and

11 “(II) the applicant agrees to the
12 authority of the Secretary of Labor
13 described in subparagraph (B);

14 “(ii) a certification that no public
15 work or service normally performed by a
16 public employee will be privatized or sub-
17 contracted in carrying out a project funded
18 by the award; and

19 “(iii) a description of—

20 “(I) coordination and advance
21 planning with the local electricity pro-
22 vider; and

23 “(II) how school bus drivers, me-
24 chanics, and local first responders will
25 be properly trained in the operation

1 of, maintenance of, repair of, and
 2 emergency response for zero-emission
 3 school buses.

4 “(B) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF
 5 LABOR.—For any project or activity carried out
 6 by a recipient of an award under paragraph (1),
 7 the Secretary of Labor shall, with respect to the
 8 labor standards described in subparagraph
 9 (A)(i)(I), have the authority and functions set
 10 forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of
 11 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and sec-
 12 tion 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

13 “(C) PRIORITIZATION.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In making awards
 15 under paragraph (1), the Administrator
 16 shall prioritize applicants that—

17 “(I) propose to replace school
 18 buses that serve—

19 “(aa) a high-need local edu-
 20 cational agency;

21 “(bb) a Bureau-funded
 22 school (as defined in section
 23 1141 of the Education Amend-
 24 ments of 1978 (25 U.S.C.
 25 2021)); or

1 “(cc) a local educational
2 agency that receives a basic sup-
3 port payment under section
4 7003(b)(1) of the Elementary
5 and Secondary Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7703(b)(1)) for
7 children who reside on Indian
8 land;

9 “(II) serve rural or low-income
10 areas;

11 “(III) propose to complement the
12 assistance received through the award
13 by securing additional sources of
14 funding for the activities supported
15 through the award, such as through—

16 “(aa) public-private partner-
17 ships;

18 “(bb) grants from other en-
19 tities; or

20 “(cc) issuance of school
21 bonds;

22 “(IV) serve areas identified by
23 the Administrator as in nonattain-
24 ment of national ambient air quality
25 standards promulgated under section

1 109 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.
2 7409) for ozone or particulate matter;
3 or

4 “(V) serve communities of color.

5 “(ii) SELF-CERTIFICATION.—

6 “(I) SELF-CERTIFICATION AU-
7 THORIZED.—For purposes of deter-
8 mining if a local educational agency
9 meets a prioritization criterion de-
10 scribed in clause (i), a local edu-
11 cational agency may, in accordance
12 with this clause and in addition to any
13 local educational agencies that the Ad-
14 ministrator determines otherwise meet
15 a prioritization criterion described in
16 clause (i), self-certify to the Adminis-
17 trator that the local educational agen-
18 cy is—

19 “(aa) a high-need local edu-
20 cational agency; or

21 “(bb) a local educational
22 agency that serves a low-income
23 area.

24 “(II) TITLE I GRANTS.—A local
25 educational agency may self-certify

1 under this clause if not less than 80
2 percent of the schools within the large
3 local educational agency received a
4 grant under title I of the Elementary
5 and Secondary Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) for the
7 2023/2024 academic year.

8 “(III) CERTAIN SCHOOLS.—A
9 local educational agency may self-cer-
10 tify a group of schools within the
11 large local educational agency under
12 this clause if—

13 “(aa) all schools within the
14 group individually received grants
15 under title I of the Elementary
16 and Secondary Education Act of
17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.)
18 for the 2023/2024 academic year;
19 and

20 “(bb) all school buses for
21 which an award under paragraph
22 (1) is sought will primarily serve
23 the schools within the group.

24 “(IV) OTHER LOCAL EDU-
25 CATIONAL AGENCIES.—A local edu-

1 cational agency may self-certify under
2 this clause if—

3 “(aa) the local educational
4 agency is not included in the
5 most recent school district esti-
6 mates for the Small Area Income
7 and Poverty Estimates of the
8 Bureau of the Census as having
9 20 percent or more of students
10 living in poverty; and

11 “(bb) the local educational
12 agency received a grant under
13 part A of title I of the Elemen-
14 tary and Secondary Education
15 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et
16 seq.) for the 2023/2024 academic
17 year.

18 “(D) UTILITY PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible
19 recipient seeking an award under paragraph (1)
20 shall include with an application under subpara-
21 graph (A) a worksheet, containing such infor-
22 mation as the Administrator may require, de-
23 tailing the coordination and partnerships of the
24 eligible recipient with electric utilities to pre-
25 pare for infrastructure projects required to inte-

1 grate an expanded fleet of zero-emission school
2 buses.

3 “(3) ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURERS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
5 shall maintain and make publicly available a list
6 of manufacturers of zero-emission school buses
7 from whom recipients of awards under para-
8 graph (1) may purchase zero-emission school
9 buses.

10 “(B) CRITERIA.—The Administrator shall
11 establish a process by which manufacturers may
12 seek inclusion on the list established under sub-
13 paragraph (A), which shall include the submis-
14 sion of such information as the Administrator
15 may require, including—

16 “(i) a disclosure of whether there has
17 been any administrative merits determina-
18 tion, arbitral award or decision, or civil
19 judgment, as defined in guidance issued by
20 the Secretary of Labor, rendered against
21 the manufacturer in the preceding 3 years
22 for violations of applicable labor, employ-
23 ment, civil rights, or health and safety
24 laws;

25 “(ii) specific information regarding—

1 “(I) the actions the manufacturer
2 will take to demonstrate compliance
3 with and, where possible, exceedance
4 of requirements under applicable
5 labor, employment, civil rights, and
6 health and safety laws; and

7 “(II) actions the manufacturer
8 will take to ensure that the direct sup-
9 pliers of the manufacturer dem-
10 onstrate compliance with applicable
11 labor, employment, civil rights, and
12 health and safety laws; and

13 “(iii) the U.S. Jobs Plan of the manu-
14 facturer.

15 “(C) U.S. JOBS PLAN.—The Administrator
16 shall—

17 “(i) establish a scoring mechanism to
18 evaluate the quality of U.S. Jobs Plans
19 submitted by manufacturers seeking inclu-
20 sion on the list established under subpara-
21 graph (A); and

22 “(ii) establish regular intervals during
23 which manufacturers may submit updated
24 U.S. Jobs Plans and obtain an updated
25 score.

1 “(D) ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator
2 shall establish an enforcement process for the
3 enforcement of commitments made in the U.S.
4 Jobs Plan of an eligible manufacturer, which
5 shall include—

6 “(i) a requirement that eligible manu-
7 facturers submit semiannual reports dem-
8 onstrating the compliance of the manufac-
9 turer with the U.S. Jobs Plan of the man-
10 ufacturer, which shall be certified under
11 penalty of perjury;

12 “(ii) a process for removing an eligible
13 manufacturer from the list in the case of
14 substantial non-compliance with the U.S.
15 Jobs Plan of the manufacturer; and

16 “(iii) a requirement that terms and
17 conditions of employment and compliance
18 reports of the U.S. Jobs Plan will be pub-
19 lic information and will be made public on
20 USAspending.gov.

21 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—

22 “(A) USE OF SCHOOL BUSES.—All zero-
23 emission school buses acquired using an award
24 under paragraph (1) shall—

1 “(i) be purchased from an eligible
2 manufacturer;

3 “(ii) be operated as part of the school
4 bus fleet for which the award was made for
5 not less than 5 years, except that, if the
6 award is to an eligible contractor and the
7 contract with the local educational agency
8 (including charter schools operating as
9 local educational agencies under State law)
10 ends before the end of the 5-year period,
11 those school buses may be operated as part
12 of another local educational agency eligible
13 for the same or higher priority consider-
14 ation under paragraph (2)(C)(i), subject to
15 the limitations under paragraph (6);

16 “(iii) be maintained, operated, and
17 charged according to manufacturer rec-
18 ommendations or State requirements; and

19 “(iv) not be manufactured or retro-
20 fitted with, or otherwise have installed, a
21 power unit or other technology that creates
22 air pollution within the school bus, such as
23 an unvented diesel passenger heater.

24 “(B) INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT.—Any
25 charging infrastructure purchased or installed

1 using an award under paragraph (1) shall be
2 installed with the participation of electricians
3 certified for the installation of electric vehicle
4 supply equipment by the Electric Vehicle Infra-
5 structure Training Program.

6 “(5) AWARDS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In making awards
8 under paragraph (1), the Administrator may
9 make awards for up to 100 percent of the costs
10 for replacement of existing school buses with
11 zero-emission school buses, the purchase of new
12 zero-emission school buses, charging infrastruc-
13 ture, and project implementation, such as work
14 training.

15 “(B) STRUCTURING AWARDS.—In making
16 an award under subparagraph (A) or (B) of
17 paragraph (1), the Administrator shall decide
18 whether to award a grant or rebate, or a com-
19 bination thereof, based primarily on how best to
20 facilitate replacing existing school buses with
21 zero-emission school buses or purchasing new
22 zero-emission school buses.

23 “(C) SCORING.—In making awards under
24 paragraph (1), the Administrator may—

1 “(i) base the amount of an award, in
 2 part, on the score determined using the
 3 scoring mechanism established pursuant to
 4 paragraph (3)(C); and

5 “(ii) as a result of the basis described
 6 in clause (i), make a larger award for zero-
 7 emission school buses purchased from
 8 higher-scoring manufacturers.

9 “(6) DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
 11 shall—

12 “(i) to the maximum extent prac-
 13 ticable, achieve nationwide deployment of
 14 zero-emission school buses through the
 15 program under this section; and

16 “(ii) ensure a broad geographic dis-
 17 tribution of awards.

18 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Administrator
 19 shall ensure that the amount received by all eli-
 20 gible recipients in a State from grants and re-
 21 bates under this section does not exceed 10 per-
 22 cent of the amounts made available to carry out
 23 this section during a fiscal year.

24 “(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than Janu-
 25 ary 31 of each year, the Administrator shall submit

1 to Congress a report that evaluates the implementa-
 2 tion of this section and describes—

3 “(A) the total number of applications re-
 4 ceived;

5 “(B) the quantity and amount of grants
 6 and rebates awarded and the location of the re-
 7 cipients of the grants and rebates;

8 “(C) the criteria used to select the recipi-
 9 ents; and

10 “(D) any other information the Adminis-
 11 trator considers appropriate.

12 “(c) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
 14 after the date of enactment of the Clean Commute
 15 for Kids Act of 2024, the Administrator shall de-
 16 velop an education and outreach program to promote
 17 and explain the award program under this section.

18 “(2) COORDINATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—

19 The education and outreach program under para-
 20 graph (1) shall be designed and conducted in con-
 21 junction with interested national school bus trans-
 22 portation associations, labor unions, electric utilities,
 23 manufacturers of zero-emission school buses, manu-
 24 facturers of components of zero-emission school

1 buses, clean transportation nonprofit organizations,
2 and other stakeholders.

3 “(3) COMPONENTS.—The education and out-
4 reach program under paragraph (1) shall—

5 “(A) inform potential award recipients on
6 the process of applying for awards and fulfilling
7 the requirements of awards;

8 “(B) describe the benefits of using the
9 technologies for which awards under subsection
10 (b)(1) are available;

11 “(C) explain the benefits and costs in-
12 curred by participating in the award program;

13 “(D) make available information regarding
14 best practices, lessons learned, and technical
15 and other information regarding—

16 “(i) zero-emission school bus acquisi-
17 tion and deployment;

18 “(ii) the build-out of associated infra-
19 structure and advance planning with the
20 local electricity supplier;

21 “(iii) workforce development, training,
22 and Registered Apprenticeships that meet
23 the requirements under parts 29 and 30 of
24 title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (as
25 in effect on December 1, 2023);

1 “(iv) the benefits of aggregate pur-
2 chasing using grant awards from the
3 award program under this section; and

4 “(v) any other information that is
5 necessary, as determined by the Adminis-
6 trator;

7 “(E) include, as appropriate, information
8 from the annual report required under sub-
9 section (b)(7); and

10 “(F) in consultation with the Secretary,
11 make information available about how zero-
12 emission school buses can be part of building
13 community resilience to the effects of climate
14 change.

15 “(d) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Administrator
16 may use, for the administrative costs of carrying out this
17 section, not more than 3 percent of the amounts made
18 available to carry out this section for any fiscal year.

19 “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall have
20 the authority to promulgate such regulations or other
21 guidance, forms, instructions, and publications as may be
22 necessary or appropriate to carry out the programs,
23 projects, or activities authorized under this section, includ-
24 ing to ensure that such programs, projects, or activities

1 are completed in a timely and effective manner, result in
 2 emissions reductions, and maximize public health benefits.

3 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 4 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
 5 carry out this section, to remain available until ex-
 6 pended—

7 “(1) \$2,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 8 2025 and 2026; and

9 “(2) \$3,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 10 2027 through 2032.”.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 12 subsection (a) takes effect on October 1, 2024.

13 **SEC. 3. OTHER MATTERS.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
 16 trator” means the Administrator of the Environ-
 17 mental Protection Agency.

18 (2) CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM.—The term
 19 “Clean School Bus program” means the program for
 20 grants and rebates established under paragraph (1)
 21 of section 741(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
 22 (42 U.S.C. 16091(b)).

23 (3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term
 24 “local educational agency” has the meaning given

1 the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
2 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

3 (4) SCHOOL BUS.—The term “school bus” has
4 the meaning given the term “schoolbus” in section
5 30125(a) of title 49, United States Code.

6 (5) VEHICLE-TO-BUILDING/HOME PROGRAM.—
7 The term “vehicle-to-building/home program” means
8 a program for the installation and operation of tech-
9 nology to allow for energy stored in an electric vehi-
10 cle, including a zero-emission school bus, to be dis-
11 charged to a building or home for the purposes of—

12 (A) providing backup power; or

13 (B) avoiding peak energy use demand
14 charges.

15 (6) VEHICLE-TO-GRID PROGRAM.—The term
16 “vehicle-to-grid program” means a program for the
17 installation and operation of—

18 (A) technology to allow for 2-way power
19 flow between a zero-emission school bus and the
20 electric grid—

21 (i) to allow users, including school dis-
22 tricts, to sell energy back to the grid at
23 during times of high demand; and

24 (ii) to increase the resiliency of users,
25 including schools, in natural disasters by

1 providing a backup source of energy to
 2 allow facilities to function as shelters; and
 3 (B) communications hardware and soft-
 4 ware that allows for external control of battery
 5 charging and discharging that have the func-
 6 tions described in clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-
 7 paragraph (A).

8 (7) ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS.—The term
 9 “zero-emission school bus” has the meaning given
 10 the term in section 741(a) of the Energy Policy Act
 11 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16091(a)).

12 (b) STUDY ON ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUS
 13 PRICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enact-
 14 ment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

15 (1) carry out, and submit to Congress a report
 16 describing the results of, a study that examines the
 17 effects of the Clean School Bus program on zero-
 18 emission school bus prices; and

19 (2) in the report required under paragraph (1),
 20 provide recommendations on how zero-emission
 21 school buses can reach cost-parity with diesel-pow-
 22 ered school buses.

23 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in con-
 25 sultation with the Executive Director of the Joint

1 Office of Energy and Transportation, shall develop
2 and carry out a program to provide technical assist-
3 ance to—

4 (A) eligible recipients that meet 1 or more
5 of the prioritization categories described in
6 paragraph (2)(C)(i) of section 741(b) of the
7 Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C.
8 16091(b)); and

9 (B) electric utilities that serve the recipi-
10 ents of grants and rebates under the Clean
11 School Bus program, to ensure that those elec-
12 tric utilities are prepared to work with recipi-
13 ents of awards under the Clean School Bus pro-
14 gram and are capable of supporting school bus
15 electrification.

16 (2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—The program es-
17 tablished under paragraph (1) shall provide technical
18 assistance to the entities described in that para-
19 graph, including, as applicable—

20 (A) providing assistance on applying for
21 grants or rebates under the Clean School Bus
22 program;

23 (B) providing assistance on the deploy-
24 ment, operation, maintenance, training, and
25 disposal of zero-emission school buses and asso-

ciated charging infrastructure, including battery recycling and reuse;

(C) preparing eligible recipients for coordination with electric utilities and relevant service providers;

(D) providing assistance in the deployment, operationalization, and maintenance of zero-emission school buses;

(E) providing assistance in developing zero-emission school bus battery disposition, reuse, and recycling plans; and

(F) establishing charging coordination and planning, including bus route planning and the availability of charging infrastructure technologies.

(3) BEST PRACTICES.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Administrator, in consultation with the Executive Director of the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, shall develop best practices for electric utilities and State regulatory authorities (as defined in section 3 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2602)) to plan and carry out programs for the equitable deployment of zero-emission school buses, including vehicle-to-grid programs and vehicle-to-building/home programs.

1 (4) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out paragraph
2 (1), the Administrator, in consultation with the Ex-
3 ecutive Director of the Joint Office of Energy and
4 Transportation, shall ensure transparency and data-
5 sharing on vehicle-to-grid programs and vehicle-to-
6 building/home programs and the compensation of
7 those programs to school bus operators.

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