

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7428

To require the Secretary of Transportation to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning seat belts on school buses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning seat belts on school buses, 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 “Secure Every Child
5 Under the Right Equipment Standards Act of 2026” or
6 the “SECURES Act of 2026”.

7 **SEC. 2. PROPOSED RULEMAKING.**

8 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
10 portation shall publish a notice of proposed rulemaking

1 on new Federal standards for school bus seat belt require-
2 ments on all new school buses, regardless of gross vehicle
3 weight rating.

4 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In the proposed rulemaking,
5 the Secretary shall consider—

6 (1) the safety benefits of a lap/shoulder belt
7 system (also known as a “Type 2 seat belt assem-
8 bly”);

9 (2) the conclusion of the National Transpor-
10 tation Safety Board that “Lap/shoulder belts pro-
11 vide the highest level of protection for school bus
12 passengers” and that “Properly worn lap belts pro-
13 vide some benefit,” while “Properly worn lap/shoul-
14 der belts provide greater benefit by reducing injuries
15 related to upper body flailing”;

16 (3) the 2015 announcement by the Adminis-
17 trator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-
18 ministration Mark Rosekind, stating that the agency
19 believes “that every child on every school bus should
20 have a three-point seat belt”;

21 (4) any innovative approaches to seat belt de-
22 tection, seat belt reminder systems, and seat belt
23 violation alert systems that could be incorporated
24 into school bus designs; and

1 (5) existing experience from the States that
2 have already required school buses to be equipped
3 with seat belts.

○