

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.

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

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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