HOUSE . . . . No. 2425

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

Antonio F. D. Cabral

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To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to require seat belts on school buses.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Antonio F. D. Cabral	13th Bristol	2/12/2021
Brian M. Ashe	2nd Hampden	2/19/2021
Steven S. Howitt	4th Bristol	2/19/2021
Christopher Hendricks	11th Bristol	2/19/2021
Ruth B. Balser	12th Middlesex	2/19/2021
Carole A. Fiola	6th Bristol	2/19/2021
Michael O. Moore	Second Worcester	2/23/2021
Michelle L. Ciccolo	15th Middlesex	2/26/2021
Michelle M. DuBois	10th Plymouth	4/8/2021

HOUSE . . . . No. 2425

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2425) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others for legislation to require seat belts on school buses. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

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An Act to require seat belts on school buses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1   SECTION 1.   Section 7B of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018

2   Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following clauses:-

3   "(19) as of September 1, 2023, every school bus transporting students to or from a public,

4   charter or vocational school shall be equipped with a lap-shoulder belt for each permanent

5   seating accommodation designed and installed in compliance with United States motor vehicle

6   D.O.T. safety standards, which seat belt shall be fastened about each passenger at all times

7   during vehicle operation.

8   (20) as of September 1, 2024, every school bus transporting students to or from a private

9   or parochial school shall be equipped with a lap-shoulder belt for each permanent seating

10   accommodation designed and installed in compliance with United States motor vehicle D.O.T.

11   safety standards, which seat belt shall be fastened about each passenger at all times during

12   vehicle operation.".

13   SECTION 2.   Section 7B of said chapter, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by

14   inserting after the word "practices", in line 120, the following words:-

15   ", which shall include instruction in the use of lap-shoulder belts,"

16   SECTION 3.   Section 7L of said chapter, as so appearing, is hereby amended by

17   inserting after the word "seated", in line 6, the following words:-

18   "and, if traveling in a bus required by this chapter to have lap-shoulder belts, wearing a

19   lap-shoulder belt which is properly adjusted and fastened according to the manufacturer's

20   instructions".

21   SECTION 4.   Section 7AA of said chapter, as so appearing, is hereby amended by

22   inserting after the word "bus", in line 12, the following words:-

23   ", prior to September 1, 2023, unless such school bus is equipped with a lap-shoulder belt

24   system".

25   SECTION 5.   Section 4 of chapter 175E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018

26   Official Edition, is hereby amended, by adding the following subsection:-

27   "(f) For motor vehicle insurance rates for school buses, the commissioner shall develop

28   and promulgate a schedule of appropriate reductions in premium charges to account for the

29   decreased risk of injury associated with the installation of a lap-shoulder belt system approved by

30   the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration in any such bus so equipped. The

31   schedule shall be promulgated prior to September 1, 2023, provided that an owner of any school

32   bus so equipped prior to the promulgation of said schedule may apply to the commissioner and

33   receive an appropriate reduction in the premium charge."