

SENATE No. 2590

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

SENATE, February 12, 2024.

The committee on Education, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 244) of Joanne M. Comerford and Susannah M. Whipps for legislation to fairly reimburse local school transportation of foster children; (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 329) of Patrick M. O'Connor and David F. DeCoste for legislation to provide opportunity for youth with substance abuse needs; and (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 330) of Jacob R. Oliveira, Adam Scanlon, Vanna Howard, Jason M. Lewis and others for legislation relative to student transportation, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2590).

For the committee,
Jason M. Lewis

SENATE No. 2590

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to school transportation.

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 Section 7C of Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

2 SECTION 2. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
3 Section 7C, the following new section:-

4 Section 7B 1/2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall maintain a
5 registry of all vendors providing school transportation services.

6 SECTION 3. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
7 Section 68, the following new section:-

8 Section 68A. A school district shall provide all parents and guardians of students the
9 opportunity to decline school transportation on an annual basis. Such offers shall be made not
10 less than 30 days prior to the start of the academic year. Should a parent or guardian of a student
11 decline transportation for their student, the school district shall not be obligated to provide
12 transportation to said student for said academic year as designated by the parent or guardian.

13 SECTION 4. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
14 Section 16C, the following new section:-

15 Section 16C ½. A regional school district shall provide all parents and guardians of
16 students the opportunity to decline school transportation on an annual basis. Such offers shall be
17 made not less than 30days prior to the start of the academic year. Should a parent or guardian of
18 a student decline transportation for their student, the regional school

19 district shall not be obligated to provide transportation to said student for said academic
20 year as designated by the parent or guardian.

21 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
22 of elementary and secondary education, in consultation with the department of transportation,
23 shall conduct a study of student transportation collaboratives and consortiums.

24 Said study shall examine what school districts would be best served by implementing a
25 collaborative or consortium and how such a collaborative or consortium could be implemented in
26 a district. The department shall file its report with the chairs of the joint committee on education,
27 the chairs of the joint committee on transportation, the chairs of the house and senate committees
28 on ways & means, and the house and senate clerks on or before July 1, 2025.