

HOUSE No. 2581

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Manny Cruz

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 relative to school bus safety.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 2581

By Representative Cruz of Salem, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2581) of Manny Cruz relative to seatbelts on school buses. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3791 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to school bus safety.

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 2020
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

3 Every school bus that is used for the transportation of school children to and from a
4 public, charter, vocational, private or parochial school or in connection with school activities
5 shall be equipped with seatbelts for each permanent seating accommodation on the school bus in
6 compliance with applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Any person or company
7 contracting with or intending to contract with a school district or a charter, vocational, private or
8 parochial school for the transportation of school children, shall file a notice with the department
9 of elementary and secondary education affirming that all school buses, to be utilized in
10 performance of the contract, are in compliance with this paragraph.

11 SECTION 2. Section 1 shall take effect 1 year after its passage; provided, however, that
12 any person or company that is a party to a contract existing as of the effective date of section 1
13 with a school district or a charter, vocational, private or parochial school for the transportation of
14 school children, shall notify the department of elementary and secondary education that its
15 school buses are in compliance with section 7B of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as amended
16 by section 1, as soon as compliance occurs and no later than the effective date of section 1.