

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Antonio F. D. Cabral*

*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.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2295 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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 2022  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following clauses:

3           (19) as of September 1, 2027, 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 always fastened about each passenger during  
7 vehicle operation.

8           (20) as of September 1, 2027, 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 90, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
14 by 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 90, 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 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
22 inserting after the word “bus”, in line 12, the following words: -

23 “, prior to September 1, 2026, unless such school bus is equipped with a lap-shoulder belt  
24 system”.

25 SECTION 5. Section 4 of chapter 175E, as so appearing, is hereby amended, by adding  
26 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, 2025, 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.