

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia Stone Creem

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 promoting access to zero-emission school buses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cynthia Stone Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk and Middlesex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2099 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act promoting access to zero-emission 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. Chapter 448 of the acts of 2016 is hereby amended by inserting after section
2 6 the following section:-

3 SECTION 6A. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5 “Commissioner”, the commissioner of the department of energy resources.

6 “Department”, the department of energy resources.

7 “Zero-emission school bus”, a school bus that produces no engine exhaust carbon
8 emissions.

9 (b) The department, in conjunction with the Massachusetts clean energy technology
10 center, shall establish a program to offset the cost difference between purchasing or contracting
11 the use of school buses that are zero-emission and purchasing or contracting the use of school
12 buses that are powered by diesel or other fossil fuels. In calculating the cost difference, the
13 department may include the cost of purchasing and installing zero-emission school bus charging
14 stations and related infrastructure.

15 (c) The department may promulgate regulations to administer the program established
16 under this section. The department shall publish information about the zero-emission school bus
17 grant program on its website, including without limitation application forms and submission
18 deadlines. The department shall update this information annually, not later than December 1, and
19 shall notify the department of elementary and secondary education, the senate and house
20 committees on ways and means, the joint committee on education, the joint committee on
21 telecommunications, utilities and energy and the joint committee on transportation of the update.
22 At least once per calendar year, the department shall provide outreach about the zero-emission
23 school bus grant program established under this section to municipalities and regional school
24 districts where the median household income is below the commonwealth's median or where the
25 5-year average rate of emergency department visits for childhood asthmas is greater than the
26 commonwealth's 5-year average rate.

27 (d) The commissioner shall publish and regularly update data regarding program usage
28 including, but not limited to: (i) the number and amount of grants provided; (ii) the make, model
29 and type of school bus for which the rebate was issued; (iii) the municipality or regional school
30 district in which the school bus operates; (iv) the school bus operational route or routes, if

31 available; and (v) the estimated total greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved from the
32 grants issued.

33 (e) When awarding grants under this section, the department shall prioritize
34 municipalities and regional school districts where the median household income is below the
35 commonwealth's median or where the 5-year average rate of emergency department visits for
36 childhood asthmas is greater than the commonwealth's 5-year average rate.

37 SECTION 2. The operational services division, in conjunction with the department of
38 energy resources and the Massachusetts clean energy technology center, shall establish a
39 statewide contract through which municipalities and regional school districts can purchase or
40 lease zero-emission school buses.