Bill Summary

Bill Number: H.3772

Bill Name: An Act updating Massachusetts student transportation

Sponsor(s): Rep. Jeffrey Roy

Hearing Date: July 22nd, 2025 (**Reporting Date:** September 20th, 2025)

Bill History: (2023-2024) HD.5331; Lately filed legislation did not reach committee.

Current Law: Amends MGL Chapter 90 §7D, regarding the applicability of requirements of school buses on other motor vehicles contracted to transport eight or less school students (such requirements being clauses (1), (2), (3), (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), (13) and (16) of §7B.)

- Clause (1) requires school buses to display the word 'School Bus' on the vehicle (but only when transporting students,)
- Clause (2) requires buses not to carry more passengers than the number of seats on the bus, except for specified, limited circumstances,
- Clause (3) requires all doors on school buses to remain closed while the bus is in motion,
- Clause (5) prohibits buses from refueling while it is occupied by passengers,
- Clause (7) requires buses to equip proper hazard signals and lights and to flash those lights when students board or alight the bus,
- Clause (8) requires school buses to be equipped with safety belts for each passenger,
- Clause (9) requires buses to have two operable front windshield wipers,
- Clause (10) prohibits smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages when transporting students,
- Clause (13) requires school buses to be equipped with a first aid kit, and
- Clause (16) requires school bus drivers to conduct daily pre-trip inspections of the bus and to report any potential safety deficiency.

Summary of
Proposed Law:

§1   Removes an exemption of such vehicles to conform to the 'eight-lamp system' described in §7B clause (7.)

States that such requirements - except for those required by clauses (1) and (7) – shall only apply to vehicles manufactured after the year 2018.

Requires such vehicles to have a rooftop sign with marked "School Transportation" in reflective letters.

Removes language requiring the display of a license plate.