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LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

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RH/CL

P.L. 2017, CHAPTER 349, *approved January 16, 2018*

Assembly, No. 1257 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning wheelchair securement on school buses,
2 supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, and amending
3 P.L.1992, c.92.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. (New section) In addition to the requirements established
9 pursuant to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, a school
10 bus, as defined in R.S.39:1-1, that provides transportation for
11 passengers using wheelchairs shall be equipped with appropriate
12 four-point securement systems for each passenger using a
13 wheelchair that is being transported on the school bus.

14 For the purposes of this act, “four-point securement system”
15 means a complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair
16 restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and
17 shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and
18 floor anchorages installed in the vehicle floor.

19

20 2. Section 2 of P.L.1992, c.92 (C.39:3B-11) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 2. a. Beginning on September 1 of the second year next
23 following the year of enactment of P.L.1992, c.92 (C.39:3B-10 et
24 seq.), each passenger on a school bus which is equipped with seat
25 belts shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt or other
26 child restraint system that is in conformity with applicable federal
27 standards at all times while the bus is in operation.

28 b. Beginning on September 1 of the second year next following
29 the year of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
30 Legislature as this bill), ²**[¹a school bus that provides transportation**
31 for passengers using wheelchairs shall have an aide to assist the
32 passengers, and¹]² a school bus operator ²**[¹or aide¹]² shall secure**
33 or cause to be secured a passenger using a wheelchair on a school
34 bus equipped to transport passengers using wheelchairs using a
35 properly adjusted and fastened four-point securement system in
36 conformity with applicable federal standards and section 1 of
37 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) at
38 all times while the bus is in operation.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted October 27, 2016.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted May 22, 2017.

1 c. Nothing in this section shall make the owner or operator of a
2 school bus liable for failure to properly adjust and fasten a seat belt
3 or other child restraint system or four-point securement system that
4 is in conformity with applicable federal standards for a passenger
5 who sustains injury as a direct result of the passenger's failure to
6 comply with the requirement established by this section.

7 (cf: P.L.1992, c.92, s.2)

8

9 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
10 inoperable until September 1 of the second year next following
11 enactment. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
12 Vehicle Commission, in consultation with the Commissioner of
13 Education, may take anticipatory acts in advance of the operative
14 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act.

15

16

17

18

19 Requires school bus transporting students using wheelchairs to
20 be equipped with four-point securement system; requires school bus
21 operator to secure students using wheelchairs.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1257

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school bus transporting students using wheelchairs to be equipped with four-point securement system; requires school bus operator to secure students using wheelchairs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/16/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning wheelchair securement on school buses,
2 supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, and amending
3 P.L.1992, c.92.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. (New section) In addition to the requirements established
9 pursuant to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, a school
10 bus, as defined in R.S.39:1-1, that provides transportation for
11 passengers using wheelchairs shall be equipped with appropriate
12 four-point securement systems for each passenger using a
13 wheelchair that is being transported on the school bus.

14 For the purposes of this act, “four-point securement system”
15 means a complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair
16 restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and
17 shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and
18 floor anchorages installed in the vehicle floor.
19

20 2. Section 2 of P.L.1992, c.92 (C.39:3B-11) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 2. a. Beginning on September 1 of the second year next
23 following the year of enactment of P.L.1992, c.92 (C.39:3B-10 et
24 seq.), each passenger on a school bus which is equipped with seat
25 belts shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt or other
26 child restraint system that is in conformity with applicable federal
27 standards at all times while the bus is in operation.

28 b. Beginning on September 1 of the second year next following
29 the year of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
30 Legislature as this bill), a school bus operator shall secure or cause to
31 be secured a passenger using a wheelchair on a school bus equipped to
32 transport passengers using wheelchairs using a properly adjusted and
33 fastened four-point securement system in conformity with applicable
34 federal standards and section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
35 before the Legislature as this bill) at all times while the bus is in
36 operation.

37 c. Nothing in this section shall make the owner or operator of a
38 school bus liable for failure to properly adjust and fasten a seat belt
39 or other child restraint system or four-point securement system that
40 is in conformity with applicable federal standards for a passenger
41 who sustains injury as a direct result of the passenger's failure to
42 comply with the requirement established by this section.

43 (cf: P.L.1992, c.92, s.2)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
2 inoperable until September 1 of the second year next following
3 enactment. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
4 Vehicle Commission, in consultation with the Commissioner of
5 Education, may take anticipatory acts in advance of the operative
6 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act.

7

8

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STATEMENT

10

11 This bill requires school buses that provide transportation for
12 students using wheelchairs to be equipped with a four-point
13 securement system for each student using a wheelchair on the
14 school bus. A four-point securement system is defined as a
15 complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair restraints
16 to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and shoulder belt
17 that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and floor
18 anchorages installed in the vehicle floor. Under the bill, students
19 using wheelchairs are required to be secured using the four-point
20 securement system at all times while the bus is in operation.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1257

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1257.

This bill requires school buses that provide transportation for students using wheelchairs to be equipped with a four-point securement system for each student using a wheelchair on the school bus. A four-point securement system is defined as a complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and floor anchorages installed in the vehicle floor. Under the bill, students using wheelchairs are required to be secured using the four-point securement system at all times while the bus is in operation.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1257

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 27, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1257, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires school buses that provide transportation for students using wheelchairs to have an aide to assist the students and be equipped with a four-point securement system for each student using a wheelchair on the school bus, beginning on September 1 of the second year next following the year of enactment of the bill. A four-point securement system is defined by the bill as a complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and floor anchorages installed in the vehicle floor. The bill requires that students using wheelchairs be secured using the four-point securement system at all times while the bus is in operation, and that the school bus operator or aide secure or cause to be secured a passenger using a wheelchair using the properly adjusted and fastened four-point securement system.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Service (OLS) estimates that Assembly Bill No.1257 (1R) will increase school districts' expenditures by approximately \$17.6 million. The bill's requirement that a bus be equipped with a four-point securement system if it is used to transport passengers who use a wheelchair will not lead to an expenditure increase, as this requirement mirrors current federal regulations.

To estimate the number of additional school bus aides that would be required under the bill, the OLS, based on data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey and the Survey of Income and Program Participation, estimated that there are approximately 1,800 children between the ages of five and 17 who use a wheelchair. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median hourly wage for transportation attendants in New Jersey is \$12.51. In addition to the hourly wage, the school district would be responsible for the employer's share of FICA taxes (7.65 percent of the wages). The estimate assumes that the aides are employed for four hours per day and 180 days per year. The estimate further assumes each student

who uses a wheelchair travels on a different bus and, therefore, would each require an aide. The actual expenditure increase would be lower if: 1) multiple students who use a wheelchair travel on the same school bus; and 2) if some of the students, as part of their individualized education plans, already have an aide on the school bus.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments add the requirement that beginning on September 1 of the second year next following the year of enactment of the bill, a school bus that provides transportation for passengers using wheelchairs must have an aide to assist the passengers, and that a school bus operator or aide must secure or cause to be secured a passenger using a wheelchair using the properly adjusted and fastened four-point securement system. The amendments also revise the synopsis accordingly.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1257

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 5, 2018

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1257 (2R).

This bill requires school buses that provide transportation for students using wheelchairs to be equipped with a four-point securement system for each student using a wheelchair on the school bus. A four-point securement system is defined by the bill as a complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and floor anchorages installed in the vehicle floor. Under the bill, students using wheelchairs are required to be secured using the four-point securement system at all times while the bus is in operation.

The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment, but remains inoperative until the September 1 of the second year next following enactment.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2638, as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the bill's requirement that school buses, if used to transport students who use a wheelchair, be equipped with a four-point securement system will not increase school districts' expenditures. This requirement mirrors federal requirements for school bus passenger seating and restraining barriers under current federal regulations at 49 C.F.R. s.571.222.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1257

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblywoman CARIDE)

ADOPTED: MAY 22, 2017

This floor amendment deletes the requirement that a school bus that provides transportation for passengers using wheelchairs must have an aide to assist the passengers. Pursuant to these floor amendments, the bill will read as it did when it was originally introduced.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 1257
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 26, 2016

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires school bus transporting students using wheelchairs to be equipped with four-point securement system; requires school bus operator to secure students using wheelchairs.

Type of Impact: No Impact

Agencies Affected: School Districts

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Local Cost	No Additional Cost – See comments elow		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) anticipates that Assembly Bill No. 1257 of 2016 will not have a fiscal impact on school districts. The bill requires that, in the case of a school bus that is transporting a student who uses a wheelchair, the bus must be equipped with a four-point securement system for each passenger who uses a wheelchair, and that the school bus operator use the system to secure a passenger who uses a wheelchair. The OLS notes that the four-point securement system required under the bill mirrors existing requirements under federal regulations. As such, the bill would not impose additional costs on school districts.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 1257 of 2016 requires that a school bus that transports passengers who use a wheelchair must be equipped with an appropriate four-point securement system for each passenger who uses a wheelchair. The bill defines such a system as one that includes: 1) four wheelchair restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; 2) a lap and shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and floor anchorages installed on the vehicle floor. The bill also requires that a school bus operator use the securement system to properly secure each passenger who uses a wheelchair.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS anticipates that Assembly Bill No. 1257 of 2016 will not have a fiscal impact on school districts. Under current federal regulations at 49 C.F.R. s.571.222, each school bus that has one or more locations designed to carry a passenger who uses a wheelchair must have at each such location: 1) no less than four wheelchair securement anchorages; 2) a wheelchair securement device for each anchorage; and 3) wheelchair occupant pelvic and upper torso restraints that comply with federal regulations for safety belt systems. To the extent that the bill's requirements are consistent with current federal regulations, the legislation will not lead to an increase in school districts' expenditures.

Section: Education
Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1257

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 7, 2016

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires school bus transporting students using wheelchairs to be equipped with four-point securement system; requires school bus operator or aide to secure students using wheelchairs.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase
- Agencies Affected:** School Districts

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Local Cost	\$17.6 million	\$18.0 million	\$18.3 million

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that Assembly Bill No. 1257 (1R) of 2016 will increase school districts' expenditures by \$17.6 million in the first year of implementation, and anticipates that the cost would increase by two percent annually. The projected cost increase is due to the bill's requirement that a school bus that provides transportation to students who use a wheelchair must have an aide.
- The actual cost may be lower than this estimate if: 1) multiple students who use wheelchairs are transported on the same bus, thereby decreasing the number of aides that would be needed; or 2) some students who use a wheelchair already have an aide on the bus under the provisions of the students individualized education plan.
- The bill's requirement that school buses be equipped with a four-point securement system if the bus is used to transport students who use a wheelchair will not increase school districts' expenditures, as this requirement mirrors current federal regulations.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 1257 (1R) of 2016 requires that a school bus that transports passengers who use a wheelchair be equipped with an appropriate four-point securement system for each

passenger who uses a wheelchair. The bill defines such a system as one that includes: 1) four wheelchair restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; 2) a lap and shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and 3) floor anchorages installed on the vehicle floor. The bill also requires that a school bus that transports passengers who use a wheelchair have an aide to assist the passengers, and that the aide or the school bus operator use the securement system to properly secure each passenger who uses a wheelchair.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that Assembly Bill No. 1257 (1R) of 2016 will lead to an expenditure increase of approximately \$17.6 million in the first year of implementation, with the cost increasing by two percent annually in subsequent years. The OLS notes that the bill's requirement that a school bus, if it transports passengers who use a wheelchair, be equipped with a four-point securement system would not increase school districts' expenditures, as this requirement mirrors current federal regulations at 49 C.F.R. s.571.222.

The OLS used multiple data sources to estimate the number of students who use a wheelchair. First, according to the 2015 American Community Survey, 7,026 New Jersey residents between the ages of five and 17 reported having ambulatory difficulty (defined as having serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs). In an earlier version of the same survey, 43.9 percent of respondents who indicated that they had such difficulty reported using an ambulatory aid. If one applies this rate to the 2015 survey respondents, approximately 3,084 would use an ambulatory aide. An additional report published by the Census Bureau¹ stated that, nationally, 67,000 children between the ages of six and 14 used a wheelchair or similar device, while an additional 47,000 used a cane, crutches, or walker. This implies that of the individuals in this age range that use an ambulatory aid, 58.8 percent use a wheelchair. When that rate is applied to the estimated 3,084 New Jersey school children who use an ambulatory aide, the OLS estimates that 1,813 children use a wheelchair.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median hourly wage for "transportation attendants" in New Jersey is \$12.51. If one assumes that: 1) this is the hourly wage that would be paid to these aides; 2) the aides are employed for four hours per days, and 180 days per year; and 3) students who use a wheelchair are not transported on the same bus, then the estimated additional cost in the first year would be \$17.6 million when one accounts for the additional wages and the employer's share of the FICA tax. The OLS anticipates that the cost will increase at approximately the rate of inflation in subsequent years. The actual cost incurred by school districts may be less than the amount estimated here if: 1) there are situations in which more than one student who uses a wheelchair is transported on the same bus, thereby decreasing the number of aides needed; or 2) some of the students already have an aide on the school bus as part of the student's individualized education plan.

¹ Americans with Disabilities: 2010, accessed at www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p70-131.pdf.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 2638

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 7, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Beach

SYNOPSIS

Requires school bus transporting students using wheelchairs to be equipped with four-point securement system; requires school bus operator to secure students using wheelchairs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning wheelchair securement on school buses,
2 supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, and amending
3 P.L.1992, c.92.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. (New section) In addition to the requirements established
9 pursuant to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, a school
10 bus, as defined in R.S.39:1-1, that provides transportation for
11 passengers using wheelchairs shall be equipped with appropriate
12 four-point securement systems for each passenger using a
13 wheelchair that is being transported on the school bus.

14 For the purposes of this act, “four-point securement system”
15 means a complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair
16 restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and
17 shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and
18 floor anchorages installed in the vehicle floor.

19
20 2. Section 2 of P.L.1992, c.92 (C.39:3B-11) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 2. a. Beginning on September 1 of the second year next
23 following the year of enactment of P.L.1992, c.92 (C.39:3B-10 et
24 seq.), each passenger on a school bus which is equipped with seat
25 belts shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt or other
26 child restraint system that is in conformity with applicable federal
27 standards at all times while the bus is in operation.

28 b. Beginning on September 1 of the second year next following
29 the year of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
30 Legislature as this bill), a school bus operator shall secure or cause to
31 be secured a passenger using a wheelchair on a school bus equipped to
32 transport passengers using wheelchairs using a properly adjusted and
33 fastened four-point securement system in conformity with applicable
34 federal standards and section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
35 before the Legislature as this bill) at all times while the bus is in
36 operation.

37 c. Nothing in this section shall make the owner or operator of a
38 school bus liable for failure to properly adjust and fasten a seat belt
39 or other child restraint system or four-point securement system that
40 is in conformity with applicable federal standards for a passenger
41 who sustains injury as a direct result of the passenger's failure to
42 comply with the requirement established by this section.

43 (cf: P.L.1992, c.92, s.2)

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
2 inoperable until September 1 of the second year next following
3 enactment. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
4 Vehicle Commission, in consultation with the Commissioner of
5 Education, may take anticipatory acts in advance of the operative
6 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act.

7

8

9

STATEMENT

10

11 This bill requires school buses that provide transportation for
12 students using wheelchairs to be equipped with a four-point
13 securement system for each student using a wheelchair on the school
14 bus. A four-point securement system is defined as a complete four-
15 point system that includes four wheelchair restraints to secure a
16 wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and shoulder belt that integrates
17 to the rear wheelchair restraints; and floor anchorages installed in the
18 vehicle floor. Under the bill, students using wheelchairs are required to
19 be secured using the four-point securement system at all times while
20 the bus is in operation.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2638

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2017

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2638.

This bill requires school buses that provide transportation for students using wheelchairs to be equipped with a four-point securement system for each student using a wheelchair on the school bus. A four-point securement system is defined as a complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and floor anchorages installed in the vehicle floor. Under the bill, students using wheelchairs are required to be secured using the four-point securement system at all times while the bus is in operation.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2638

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 5, 2018

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2638.

This bill requires school buses that provide transportation for students using wheelchairs to be equipped with a four-point securement system for each student using a wheelchair on the school bus. A four-point securement system is defined by the bill as a complete four-point system that includes four wheelchair restraints to secure a wheelchair to the vehicle floor; a lap and shoulder belt that integrates to the rear wheelchair restraints; and floor anchorages installed in the vehicle floor. Under the bill, students using wheelchairs are required to be secured using the four-point securement system at all times while the bus is in operation.

The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment, but remains inoperative until the September 1 of the second year next following enactment.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1257 (2R), as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the bill's requirement that school buses, if used to transport students who a wheelchair, be equipped with a four-point securement system will not increase school districts' expenditures. This requirement mirrors federal requirements for school bus passenger seating and restraining barriers under current federal regulations at 49 C.F.R. s.571.222.