
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2961 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SONNEY, BERNSTINE, BOBACK, CIRESI, DEASY,
DRISCOLL, ECKER, HARKINS, HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI, MARSHALL,
MILLARD, MOUL, OWLETT, PICKETT AND SCHLOSSBERG,
NOVEMBER 5, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," providing for school bus contractor
6 grant program.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XIII-F

13 SCHOOL BUS CONTRACTOR GRANT PROGRAM

14 Section 1301-F. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Contractor." A school bus contractor based in this
19 Commonwealth that is contracted by a school district to provide

1 pupil transportation in this Commonwealth.

2 "COVID-19 pandemic." The novel coronavirus as identified in
3 the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued on
4 March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020).

5 "Department." The Department of Education of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Fund." The School Bus Contractor Fund established under
8 section 1303-F.

9 "Program." The School Bus Contractor Grant Program
10 established under section 1302-F.

11 "School district." As defined under section 101.
12 Section 1302-F. School Bus Contractor Grant Program.

13 (a) Program established.--The School Bus Contractor Grant
14 Program is established in the department to provide financial
15 assistance for pupil transportation provided by a contractor or
16 school district owning its own bus fleet during the COVID-19
17 pandemic.

18 (b) Eligibility.--A school district or contractor shall be
19 eligible if, during the 2020-2021 school year, the school
20 district or contractor directly provides 50% or less pupil
21 transportation services than the 2019-2020 school year.

22 (c) Availability of application.--The department shall
23 develop and administer an application to a contractor or school
24 district no later than November 1, 2020, and shall post the
25 application on its publicly accessible Internet website. Notice
26 of availability of the application shall be transmitted to the
27 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania
28 Bulletin.

29 (d) Application requirements.--The application requirements
30 shall be limited to contractor's and school district's contact

1 information, the specific purpose of the grant specified in
2 subsection (a) and certification by the applicant that the grant
3 funds will be used for the stated purpose. A contractor or
4 school district may submit only one application during the
5 duration of the program. A school district or contractor shall
6 certify the amount received by the school district or contractor
7 for State reimbursement or contract award for the 2019-2020
8 school year.

9 (e) Deadline for application.--A contractor or school
10 district must submit an application for funds no later than
11 November 30, 2020.

12 (f) Amount of grant.--The department shall allocate grants
13 on or before December 30, 2020, to each contractor or school
14 district that fulfills the application requirements under
15 subsection (c) in the following amount:

16 (1) A school district shall receive 10% of the amount
17 received through the State reimbursement formula for the
18 2019-2020 school year.

19 (2) A contractor shall receive 10% of the amount
20 received by a school district in the 2019-2020 school year.

21 (f) Audit and monitoring.--The department shall monitor
22 grant recipients to ensure the appropriate use of grant funds
23 and compliance with provisions of the program.

24 Section 1303-F. School Bus Contractor Fund.

25 (a) Restricted account.--A restricted account is established
26 in the State Treasury to be known as the School Bus Contractor
27 Fund.

28 (b) Appropriation.--The sum of \$100,000,000 shall be
29 appropriated to the department for deposit in the fund from the
30 COVID-19 Response Restricted Account established under section

1 110-C of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as
2 The Fiscal Code. All money deposited in the fund and the
3 interest it accrues shall be used solely to award grants under
4 this article. Money in the fund may not be transferred to
5 another fund or account or used for purposes other than the
6 administration of this article.

7 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.