
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 152 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, HENNESSEY, PICKETT, BOBACK, OWLETT,
PENNYCUICK, CARROLL, HILL-EVANS, RIGBY, SONNEY AND ROTHMAN,
OCTOBER 28, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, OCTOBER 28, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States, the United States
2 Department of Transportation and the Governor of the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take action on the nationwide
4 school bus driver shortage.

5 WHEREAS, Every day, school bus drivers have the
6 responsibility of safely transporting this Commonwealth's most
7 precious cargo, more than 1.5 million children, to and from
8 school; and

9 WHEREAS, The ratio of school bus drivers to students
10 transported has decreased since 2013, when the number of
11 licensed school bus drivers in this Commonwealth was at the
12 highest level in the last 10 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Federal and State laws and regulations require
14 school bus operators to pass knowledge and driving tests and
15 demonstrate their capability of safely operating a loaded school
16 bus; and

17 WHEREAS, These requirements lead to a process that takes a
18 substantial amount of time, approximately 12 weeks, before a

1 school bus driver is qualified to drive students; and

2 WHEREAS, While Federal and State laws and regulations serve
3 as safeguards to assure the safe transport of school children,
4 the "under-the-hood" training requirement for commercial
5 driver's licenses has proven to be a significant barrier to
6 entry into the school bus industry; and

7 WHEREAS, The "under-the-hood" training, which is tailored for
8 large commercial vehicles, requires a school bus driver to
9 identify certain parts of the school bus engine and remedy them
10 in the event of an issue; and

11 WHEREAS, The "under-the-hood" inspection is not applicable
12 for school bus drivers, since their pretrip inspection does not
13 require inspecting items in the engine bay, and in the event of
14 a breakdown, a school bus driver remains on the bus while
15 another individual addresses the mechanical issues; and

16 WHEREAS, Across this Commonwealth, school districts and
17 school bus companies have been struggling to hire and retain an
18 adequate number of qualified school bus drivers; and

19 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the shortage,
20 at times resulting in school districts attempting to borrow
21 school bus drivers from neighboring school districts, to
22 significantly modify or delay bus schedules or ultimately having
23 no choice but to cancel an entire school day; and

24 WHEREAS, The number of licensed school bus drivers in this
25 Commonwealth is declining, while the number of students needing
26 daily school bus transportation continues to increase; therefore
27 be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
29 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
30 States, the United States Department of Transportation and the

1 Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take action on
2 the nationwide school bus driver shortage; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
4 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Governor of the
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to petition the United States
6 Department of Transportation for a waiver of the Federal Motor
7 Carrier Safety Administration regulation requiring under-the-
8 hood training under section 383.11 for the remainder of the
9 2021-2022 school year for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania due
10 to the driver shortage crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States and the
13 United States Department of Transportation consider legislation
14 or regulations that would reduce the barriers to recruitment and
15 retention of school bus drivers, while preserving and building
16 the safety of the children on the bus, the general motoring
17 public and pedestrians; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Congress of the United States and the
19 United States Department of Transportation consider
20 investigating the feasibility of developing a commercial
21 driver's license that is specific to school bus drivers in order
22 to reduce irrelevant training requirements; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the President of the United States, the Vice President of the
25 United States, the presiding officers of Congress, the chair and
26 ranking member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation
27 Committee of the United States Senate, the chair and ranking
28 member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of the
29 United States House of Representatives, the United States
30 Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the Federal

1 Motor Carrier Safety Administration, each member of Congress
2 from Pennsylvania and the Governor of the Commonwealth of
3 Pennsylvania.