

SENATE FILE NO. SF0072

School finance recalibration-transportation.

Sponsored by: Select Committee on School Finance  
Recalibration

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school finance; requiring the department  
2 of education to evaluate and provide recommendations on  
3 fiscal efficiencies in transportation funding; requiring  
4 reports; and providing for an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.**

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10 (a) The legislature recognizes the importance  
11 effective transportation plays in ensuring all students in  
12 the state have an equal opportunity to receive a quality  
13 education. The legislature also recognizes the state has an  
14 interest in ensuring public school transportation is funded  
15 in a cost effective manner. The department of education

1 shall evaluate the transportation funding system in place  
2 prior to the enactment of 2017 Wyoming Session Laws,  
3 Chapter 205, identify fiscal efficiencies within the system  
4 and provide recommendations for how to implement those  
5 efficiencies through statute or rule. In this study, the  
6 department shall evaluate and provide recommendations on:

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8 (i) Existing department rules on minimum student  
9 walking distances;

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11 (ii) Existing department rules relating to  
12 physical barriers and safety hazards within walking zones.  
13 The department shall evaluate school districts' methods of  
14 evaluating physical barriers and safety hazards and school  
15 districts' methods for confirming those designations;

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17 (iii) The sharing of transportation personnel  
18 and services among school districts, including department  
19 rules on sharing transportation services;

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21 (iv) The use of contracts with parents and  
22 guardians to provide compensation for transportation of  
23 students;

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2           (v) Existing department rules on what a school  
3 district must demonstrate to the department in order to  
4 increase the size of its bus fleet. The department shall  
5 consider:

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7           (A) How the rules could be developed to  
8 enhance school bus routing efficiency; and

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10           (B) How the rules could be developed to  
11 enhance transportation efficiencies by using buses with  
12 greater seating capacity.

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14           (vi) Existing department rules on school bus  
15 life cycles;

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17           (vii) Existing department rules on the review of  
18 a school district's fleet when a district's average daily  
19 membership decreases by fifteen percent (15%) or more in a  
20 three (3) year period;

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22           (viii) Existing department rules on allowable  
23 and nonallowable costs;

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2           (ix) Opportunities to reduce the number of  
3 school district buses. The department shall identify  
4 circumstances where school districts may adopt multiple  
5 routing, including circumstances where adjustment of school  
6 schedules would allow use of multiple routing;

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8           (x) Incentives for school districts to adopt and  
9 use modern school transportation routing software,  
10 navigation systems and related programs and training;

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12           (xi) Any other mechanism in the state's  
13 transportation funding system that would increase  
14 efficiencies.

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16           (b) To the extent the department determines regional  
17 meetings of school districts around the state are necessary  
18 to complete the requirements of this section, the  
19 department is authorized to conduct the meetings.  
20 Appropriate school district personnel shall attend regional  
21 meetings at the request of the department.

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1           (c) The department of education may request any  
2 executive branch agency or any school district of the state  
3 to provide information necessary to the department in its  
4 studies. Agencies and school districts shall comply  
5 promptly with any request.

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7           **Section 2.** Not later than June 1, 2018, the  
8 department of education shall report to the joint education  
9 interim committee its preliminary evaluation and  
10 recommendations on the studies conducted pursuant to  
11 section 1 of this act. Not later than September 1, 2018,  
12 the department shall report its final evaluation and  
13 recommendations to the joint education interim committee.

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15           **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon  
16 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
17 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
18 Constitution.

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(END)