

HOUSE No. 2034

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Antonio F. D. Cabral

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to require seat belts on school buses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 2034

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2034) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others for legislation to require seat belts on school buses. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to require seat belts on school buses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7B of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following clauses:-

3 “(19) as of September 1, 2023, every school bus transporting students to or from a public,
4 charter or vocational school shall be equipped with a lap-shoulder belt for each permanent
5 seating accommodation designed and installed in compliance with United States motor vehicle
6 D.O.T. safety standards, which seat belt shall be fastened about each passenger at all times
7 during vehicle operation.

8 (20) as of September 1, 2025, every school bus transporting students to or from a private
9 or parochial school shall be equipped with a lap-shoulder belt for each permanent seating
10 accommodation designed and installed in compliance with United States motor vehicle D.O.T.
11 safety standards, which seat belt shall be fastened about each passenger at all times during
12 vehicle operation.”.

13 SECTION 2. Said section 7B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
14 amended by inserting after the word “practices”, in line 120, the following words:—

15 “, which shall include instruction in the use of lap-shoulder belts,”

16 SECTION 3. Section 7L of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
17 inserting after the word “seated”, in line 6, the following words:-

18 “and, if traveling in a bus required by this chapter to have lab-shoulder belts, wearing a
19 lap-shoulder belt which is properly adjusted and fastened according to the manufacturer’s
20 instructions”.

21 SECTION 4. Section 7AA of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
22 inserting after the word “bus”, in line 12, the following words:-

23 “, prior to September 1, 2023, unless such school bus is equipped with a lap-shoulder belt
24 system”.

25 SECTION 5. Section 4 of chapter 175E, of the General Laws is hereby amended by
26 adding the following subsection:-

27 “(f) For motor vehicle insurance rates for school buses, the commissioner shall develop
28 and promulgate a schedule of appropriate reductions in premium charges to account for the
29 decreased risk of injury associated with the installation of a lap-shoulder belt system approved by
30 the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration in any such bus so equipped. The
31 schedule shall be promulgated prior to September 1, 2021, provided that an owner of any school
32 bus so equipped prior to the promulgation of said schedule may apply to the commissioner and
33 receive an appropriate reduction in the premium charge.”