

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2101**

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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 seatbelts in school buses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2101**

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2101) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others for legislation to require seatbelts in school buses. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)

An Act to require seatbelts in 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 2012  
2 official edition, is hereby amended by adding after the word “year” in line 129, the following:—  
3 : (19) as of September 1, 2019, every school bus transporting students to or from a public or  
4 vocational school shall be equipped with a lap-shoulder belt for each permanent seating  
5 accommodation designed and installed in compliance with United States motor vehicle D.O.T.  
6 safety standards, which seat belt shall be fastened about each passenger at all times during  
7 vehicle operation; (20) as of September 1, 2021, every school bus transporting students to or  
8 from a private or parochial school shall be equipped with a lap-shoulder belt for each permanent  
9 seating accommodation designed and installed in compliance with United States motor vehicle  
10 D.O.T. safety standards, which seat belt shall be fastened about each passenger at all times  
11 during vehicle operation.

12 SECTION 2. Said section 7B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further  
13 amended by adding after the word “practices” in line 113, the following:— which shall include  
14 instruction in the use of lap-shoulder belts.

15 SECTION 3. Section 7L of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
16 adding after the word “seated” in line 5, the following:— and, if traveling in a bus required by  
17 this chapter to have lab-shoulder belts, wearing a lap-shoulder belt which is properly adjusted  
18 and fastened according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

19 SECTION 4. Section 7AA of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
20 adding, in line 11 after the word “bus” the words:— , prior to September 1, 2019, unless such  
21 school bus is equipped with a lap-shoulder belt system.

22 SECTION 5. Section 4 of chapter 175E, of the general laws, as appearing in the 2012  
23 official edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section at the end thereof:—(f) For  
24 motor vehicle insurance rates for school buses, the commissioner shall develop and promulgate a  
25 schedule of appropriate reductions in premium charges to account for the decreased risk of injury  
26 associated with the installation of a lap-shoulder belt system approved by the National Highway  
27 Transportation Safety Administration in any such bus so equipped. The schedule shall be  
28 promulgated prior to September 1, 2017, provided that an owner of any school bus so equipped  
29 prior to the promulgation of said schedule may apply to the commissioner and receive an  
30 appropriate reduction in the premium charge.

31 SECTION 6. No claim for damages shall arise from the failure of a school bus operator  
32 to ensure that a passenger of a school bus was wearing the restraint system prescribed by  
33 Sections 7B, 7L and 7AA of Chapter 90 of the general laws.