

SENATE No. 1504

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sal N. DiDomenico

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 relative to seatbelts on school buses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Sal N. DiDomenico

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Middlesex and Suffolk

SENATE No. 1504

By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1504) of Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation relative to requirements for seatbelts on school buses. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1569 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to seatbelts 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 2020
2 official edition, is hereby amended by adding after criteria (18) the following:- "(19) Every
3 school bus transporting students to or from a public, vocational, private or parochial school shall
4 be equipped with a seatbelt for each permanent seating accommodation designed and installed in
5 compliance with United States motor vehicle D.O.T. safety standards."

6 SECTION 2. A city or town may enact a local ordinance or bylaw requiring that school
7 buses operating within the municipality must be equipped with seatbelts at an earlier
8 implementation date.

9 SECTION 3. No claim for damages shall arise from the failure of a school bus operator, a
10 school, school district or municipality to ensure that a passenger of a school bus was wearing the
11 restraint system prescribed by Sections 7B of Chapter 90 of the general laws.

12 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.