



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1243

January Session, 2025



***AN ACT CONCERNING BUS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
FOR VETERANS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section
3 27-103 of the general statutes and "fare inspection duties" has the same
4 meaning as provided in section 13b-2 of the general statutes.

5 (b) Any veteran shall be exempt from payment of the lawful charge
6 for state-owned or controlled bus public transportation service,
7 provided such veteran presents to an employee of the Department of
8 Transportation or a third-party contractor with fare inspection duties or
9 the driver of such bus, as applicable, a motor vehicle operator's license
10 or identity card indicating such person's status as a veteran issued in
11 accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) of section 14-36h of the
12 general statutes.

13 Sec. 2 (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than August 1, 2025,
14 the Commissioner of Transportation shall establish a program to allow
15 students who are enrolled in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, of a public
16 school under the jurisdiction of a participating local or regional board of
17 education to use state-owned or controlled bus public transportation
18 service without cost or at a reduced cost, in accordance with the contract

19 negotiated under subsection (b) of this section. A participating local or
20 regional board of education may obtain passes for the use of such bus
21 public transportation service under such program and distribute or sell
22 such passes to its students. The commissioner shall publish information
23 regarding such program and an application process for such program
24 on the Department of Transportation's Internet web site in a manner that
25 the commissioner determines will maximize awareness and
26 participation by the greatest number of local or regional boards of
27 education.

28 (b) Upon receipt of an application from a local or regional board of
29 education to participate in the program, the commissioner may
30 negotiate the terms and conditions and enter into a contract with such
31 local or regional board of education. Such terms and conditions shall
32 include, but need not be limited to, (1) the amount of compensation or
33 reimbursement required from the local or regional board of education,
34 and (2) any limitations on the times a student may use state-owned or
35 controlled bus public transportation service. The compensation or
36 reimbursement negotiated in the contract shall be in an amount as the
37 commissioner deems necessary or advisable, provided the amount is
38 sufficient to ensure that bus public transportation service expenditures
39 incurred by the department do not increase as a result of the program
40 and to cover any administrative costs incurred by the department in the
41 operation of the program. A contract under the program shall be valid
42 upon the approval of the Office of Policy and Management for a term of
43 not more than two years, except the first contract with a local or regional
44 board of education shall not exceed twelve months. Prior to any renewal
45 of a contract with a local or regional board of education under the
46 program, the commissioner shall consider prior pass utilization
47 information and any bus public transportation service expenditure
48 increases incurred by the department for the purpose of reevaluating
49 the amount of compensation or reimbursement required from such local
50 or regional board of education.

51 (c) Not later than August 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
52 Commissioner of Transportation shall submit a report to the Secretary

53 of the Office of Policy and Management on the financial data and pass
54 utilization for each contract under the program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "the provisions of" was inserted before "subsection (e) of section 14-36h" for consistency with standard drafting conventions; and in Section 2(a), in the first sentence, "in accordance with the contract negotiated under subsection (b) of this section" was inserted for clarity and the third sentence was redrafted for clarity.

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*