



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5470

LCO No. 2435



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:

(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING HYBRID SCHOOL BUSES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22a-201d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) As used in this section, (1) "zero-emission school bus" has the same
4 meaning as provided in 42 USC 16091(a)(8), as amended from time to
5 time, (2) "alternative fuel school bus" means a school bus that reduces
6 emissions and is operated entirely or in part using liquefied natural gas,
7 compressed natural gas, hydrogen, propane or biofuels, (3) "hybrid
8 school bus" means a school bus that uses (A) a combustion engine fueled
9 by gasoline, diesel, liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas,
10 hydrogen, propane or biofuels, and (B) an electric motor capable of
11 propelling the bus that is powered by an electric battery or battery pack,
12 to provide vehicle propulsion from either the combustion engine or the
13 electric motor, or both, and [(3)] (4) "environmental justice community"
14 has the same meaning as provided in subsection (a) of section 22a-20a.

15 (b) [Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, (1) on] On

16 and after January 1, [2035] 2040, one hundred per cent of the school
17 buses that provide transportation for all school districts in the state shall
18 be zero-emission school buses, [or] alternative fuel school buses or
19 hybrid school buses. [, and (2) on and after January 1, 2040, one hundred
20 per cent of the school buses that provide transportation for all school
21 districts in the state shall be zero-emission school buses.]

22 [(c) On and after January 1, 2030, one hundred per cent of the school
23 buses that provide transportation for school districts entirely within an
24 environmental justice community as of July 1, 2022, or in an area that
25 encompasses at least one environmental justice community as of July 1,
26 2022, shall be zero-emission school buses.]

27 [(d)] (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
28 shall establish and administer a grant program for the purpose of
29 providing matching funds necessary for municipalities, school districts
30 and school bus operators to submit federal grant applications [in order]
31 to maximize federal funding for the purchase or lease of zero-emission
32 school buses, alternative fuel school buses, hybrid school buses and
33 electric vehicle charging or fueling infrastructure. Applications for such
34 grants shall be filed with the commissioner at such time and in such
35 manner as the commissioner prescribes. The commissioner shall give
36 preference to applications concerning the purchase or lease of a zero-
37 emission school bus that will be operated primarily in an environmental
38 justice community. The commissioner shall determine the amount a
39 municipality, school district or school bus operator shall be required to
40 provide to match such grant.

41 [(e)] (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
42 shall, within available funds and appropriations, provide
43 administrative and technical assistance to municipalities, school
44 districts and school bus operators that are transitioning to the use of
45 zero-emission school buses, [applying] alternative fuel school buses and
46 hybrid school buses that apply for federal grants for such buses and for
47 installing electric vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure.

48 Sec. 2. Subsection (h) of section 22a-202 of the 2026 supplement to the
49 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
50 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

51 (h) There is established an account to be known as the "Connecticut
52 hydrogen and electric automobile purchase rebate program account",
53 which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account. The account shall contain
54 any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in
55 the account shall be expended by the Commissioner of Energy and
56 Environmental Protection for the purposes of (1) administering the
57 Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate
58 program and the voucher program established pursuant to section 22a-
59 201e, and (2) paying the staffing needs associated with administering
60 the grant program for zero-emission buses, alternative fuel school buses
61 and hybrid school buses and providing administrative and technical
62 assistance for such grant program pursuant to section 22a-201d, as
63 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	22a-201d
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	22a-202(h)

Statement of Purpose:
To allow school districts to utilize hybrid school buses to meet certain fuel and emissions requirements.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]