

House Bill 452

By: Representatives Battles of the 15th, Carter of the 175th, Dudgeon of the 24th, Casas of the 103rd, Ashe of the 56th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to revise a provision relating to student
3 transportation; to authorize local boards of education to use vehicles other than school buses
4 for the transport of students to and from school related activities; to provide for minimum
5 requirements; to provide for insurance; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
10 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-188, relating to student
11 transportation, by revising subsection (e) as follows:

12 "(e) The State Board of Education shall establish and require adherence to minimum
13 specifications for vehicles used or contracted to be used by local units of administration for
14 transporting students, including passenger cars and multipurpose passenger vehicles or
15 trucks with a capacity of 15 persons or less, taking into account the factors and
16 circumstances set forth in subsection (a) of this Code section, and shall establish and
17 require adherence to minimum standards and requirements respecting maintenance, repair,
18 inspection, and use of such vehicles and minimum qualifications for the drivers of such
19 vehicles. The state board shall require, monitor, and fund a program of safety instruction
20 in the practices of safe riding and emergency bus evacuation drills for both school bus
21 drivers and students riding school buses."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said chapter is further amended in Part 1 of Article 22, relating to the powers of state and
24 local school officials with respect to school buses, by adding a new Code section to read as
25 follows:

26 "20-2-1076.

27 (a) Local boards of education may authorize the use of vehicles other than school buses
28 for the transport of students to and from school related activities, where appropriate. Such
29 vehicles may include passenger cars or multipurpose passenger vehicles or trucks with a
30 capacity of 15 persons or less, including private vehicles.

31 (b) Local boards shall comply with all requirements established by the State Board of
32 Education pursuant to Code Section 20-2-188, including minimum standards and
33 requirements for maintenance, repair, inspection, and use of such vehicles and minimum
34 qualifications for the drivers of such vehicles. Local boards may establish requirements
35 in addition to such minimum state requirements, in the discretion of the local board.

36 (c) Local boards are authorized and required to cause policies of insurance to be issued
37 insuring the students being transported to and from school related activities against bodily
38 injury or death at any time resulting from an accident or collision in which such vehicles
39 are involved. The amount of such insurance shall be within the discretion of each local
40 board of education."

41 **SECTION 3.**

42 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.