

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Buckley, Butler, Gilman, Read, Smith G., Tomei, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Judith Callens, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/12, 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits the State Board of Education from allowing use of school buses manufactured before April 1, 1977. Provides that operation of prohibited school bus is a Class B traffic violation, punishable with a fine of up to \$360. Prescribes August 1, 2008 effective date.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Improvements to school bus construction standards in 1977
- Number of buses and school districts affected
- Wallowa and Enterprise school districts' current contracts for school bus service
- School district options to comply
- State school fund reimbursement for district-owned buses and for contracted bus service upgrades

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes emergency clause. Prescribes August 1, 2008 effective date.

BACKGROUND: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regulates school bus construction standards. School buses manufactured after April 1, 1977 comply with stricter construction standards. These standards include padded, high back, energy-absorbing seats; special requirements for wheelchair restraint systems; brake systems that enable school buses to stop in a shorter distance; protected fuel tanks; lamps and reflective devices that indicate when the bus is loading and unloading passengers; special mirrors that allow the driver to see critical areas around the bus; and a stop arm. Currently, 12 school buses older than 1977 are operating in Oregon. HB 2456A prohibits the use of school buses manufactured before April 1977 beginning August 1, 2008.