

REVENUE: No revenue impact  
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

---

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure  
Vote: 3 - 0 - 2  
Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Metsger  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: Deckert, Starr  
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator  
Meeting Dates: 5/3, 5/21

---

**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 a 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
- Reimbursement system for school buses at ten percent of cost per year
- Cost of new buses
- School buses as the safest form of transportation for children
- Large attendance area of some of school districts

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**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, including four in the Enterprise School District and five in the Wallowa School District. The two districts have contracted for school buses from the same company. House Bill 2456-A prohibits the use of school buses manufactured before April 1977 beginning August 1, 2008.