

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Passenger seat belts are not currently required on school buses, but under state law, school bus seats may be equipped with an approved seat belt assembly. If a school bus is equipped with seat belts, they must be used by the passengers. Parents and guardians can opt out of this provision by notifying the school district in writing.

Beginning in the fall of 2011, a new federal rule will require all school buses with a maximum gross vehicle weight of less than 10,000 pounds (which are type A-1 buses) to be equipped with an approved lap and shoulder belt assembly.

School buses are grouped by type according to their size and equipment standards. Minnesota Statutes prohibit a school district from owning or operating a motor coach, but a school district may contract with a private company to provide motor coaches for school-related activities.

This bill requires a motor coach used for school-related activities to be equipped with a lap or a lap and shoulder belt system beginning July 1, 2012.

Section

- 1 Passenger lap and shoulder belts.** Requires that a motor coach used for school related activities be equipped with a lap or a lap and shoulder belt when transporting students beginning July 1, 2012.