

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7428

To require the Secretary of Transportation to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning seat belts on school buses, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

---

## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning seat belts on school buses, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Secure Every Child  
5 Under the Right Equipment Standards Act of 2026” or  
6 the “SECURES Act of 2026”.

7 **SEC. 2. PROPOSED RULEMAKING.**

8 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after  
9 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-  
10 portation shall publish a notice of proposed rulemaking

1 on new Federal standards for school bus seat belt require-  
2 ments on all new school buses, regardless of gross vehicle  
3 weight rating.

4 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In the proposed rulemaking,  
5 the Secretary shall consider—

6 (1) the safety benefits of a lap/shoulder belt  
7 system (also known as a “Type 2 seat belt assem-  
8 bly”);

9 (2) the conclusion of the National Transpor-  
10 tation Safety Board that “Lap/shoulder belts pro-  
11 vide the highest level of protection for school bus  
12 passengers” and that “Properly worn lap belts pro-  
13 vide some benefit,” while “Properly worn lap/shoul-  
14 der belts provide greater benefit by reducing injuries  
15 related to upper body flailing”;

16 (3) the 2015 announcement by the Adminis-  
17 trator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Ad-  
18 ministration Mark Rosekind, stating that the agency  
19 believes “that every child on every school bus should  
20 have a three-point seat belt”;

21 (4) any innovative approaches to seat belt de-  
22 tection, seat belt reminder systems, and seat belt  
23 violation alert systems that could be incorporated  
24 into school bus designs; and

1           (5) existing experience from the States that  
2           have already required school buses to be equipped  
3           with seat belts.

○