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SENATE BILL NO. 501

Offered January 22, 1996

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-176.1, relating to the authority of school boards to make agreements to provide certain transportation services.*

Patron—Earley

Referred to the Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-176.1 as follows:**

§ 22.1-176.1. *Finding; agreements to provide transportation for private school pupils.*

A. *To ensure the public safety of all school pupils, the General Assembly finds that there is a factual basis justifying the use of public school transportation services by private school pupils.*

B. *Local school boards may enter into agreements with eligible private schools to provide transportation to and from such private schools consistent with the division's regular school year calendar through separate bus routes for private school pupils at a per pupil cost equal to the direct and indirect costs to the division furnishing transportation. Such cost shall be paid entirely by the private school to ensure that no state or local funds are expended for private school pupil transportation.*

For the purposes of this section, eligible private schools are those which have a minimum enrollment of 100 students, which are located within the school division, which do not engage in invidious discrimination in their admissions and hiring practices, which agree to participate fully in any census conducted pursuant to Article 4 (§ 22.1-281 et seq.) of Chapter 14 of this title, and whose students utilizing the requested service live in the school division furnishing such transportation.

C. *Agreements made pursuant to this section shall not interfere with existing public school bus routes. This section does not preclude school boards from entering into agreements to provide shared routing, upon the agreement of the school board and the eligible private school.*

D. *The Board of Education shall promulgate regulations governing those transportation services and agreements established pursuant to this section.*

INTRODUCED

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