



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Mary Morris

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 84 of the 128th G.A.

Date: December 8, 2009

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Wagoner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No — No local cost

Contents: Safety belts on buses that transport college students

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 2010	FY 2011	FUTURE YEARS
Local Funds of State Institutions of Higher Education			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential increase for the lease or purchase of buses equipped with safety belts or alternate vehicles		
	- 0 -	- 0 -	Potential increase of approximately \$20,000 per bus to retrofit buses with safety belts

Note: The state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. For example, FY 2010 is July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

- The bill prohibits state institutions of higher education from renting or purchasing a bus that is not equipped with safety belts. Institutions may incur additional expenses to lease or purchase buses with safety belts or alternate transit vehicles.
- Three years after the bill's effective date, buses not equipped with safety belts can only be used for short shuttle trips. Campuses may incur additional expenses of approximately \$20,000 per bus to retrofit owned buses with safety belts in order to use them for longer transit.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill prohibits institutions of higher education from purchasing, leasing, renting, or chartering a bus that is not equipped with occupant restraining devices (safety belts) for every passenger. Three years from the bill's effective date, all institutions that own a bus without safety belts can use such a bus only for shuttle trips that do not exceed speeds of 45 miles per hour or go farther than ten miles from the center of campus. The safety belt requirement could limit access to bus transportation because few buses owned by institutions or rented commercially are equipped with safety belts.

The bill's requirement that institutions rent, lease, or charter buses with safety belts could increase expenses for most institutions. Institutions would likely pay a premium to rent buses equipped with safety belts, however they could potentially choose to rent large vans, which are commonly equipped with safety belts. Because three to four vans would be necessary to seat the same number of passengers as one large (38-45 seat) bus, rental and incidental expenses would likely increase. Actual expenses would vary based on local availability and markets.

Most of Ohio's public higher education institutions, especially two-year campuses, do not own buses, however those that do typically use them for both shuttle services and longer transit. The bill's provisions would not have an impact on expenditures for shuttle services, however transit buses would have to be repurposed or retrofitted. The Ohio State University (OSU) indicates that it is not possible to add safety belts to their existing transit buses and all seats would have to be removed and replaced. OSU estimates that retrofitting would cost approximately \$20,000 per bus and the space required for restraint devices would reduce the number of seats. As with bus rentals, institutions owning buses may be able to use vans in lieu of equipping buses with safety belts.