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School Bus Route Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ashlee Matthews

Senate Sponsor: Karen Kwan

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LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill amends student eligibility for state-supported transportation.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- amends student eligibility for state-supported transportation; and
- makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53F-2-403, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 507

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53F-2-403** is amended to read:

53F-2-403 . Eligibility for state-supported transportation -- Approved bus routes.

(1) A student eligible for state-supported transportation means:

(a) except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 6 who lives at least 1-1/2 miles from school;

(b) a student enrolled in grade 6, if grade 6 is in a middle school, and grades 7 through 12 who lives at least two miles from school; and

(c) a student enrolled in a special program offered by a school district and approved by the state board for trainable, motor, multiple-disability, or other students with severe disabilities who are incapable of walking to school or where it is unsafe for students to walk because of their disabling condition, without reference to distance from school.

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- 31 (2) If a school district implements double sessions as an alternative to new building
32 construction, with the approval of the state board, those affected elementary school
33 students residing less than 1-1/2 miles from school may be transported one way to or
34 from school because of safety factors relating to darkness or other hazardous conditions
35 as determined by the local school board.
- 36 (3)(a) The state board shall distribute transportation money to school districts based on:
37 (i) an allowance per mile for approved bus routes;
38 (ii) an allowance per hour for approved bus routes; and
39 (iii) a minimum allocation for each school district eligible for transportation funding.
- 40 (b)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b)(ii), the state board shall distribute
41 appropriated transportation funds based on the prior year's eligible transportation
42 costs as legally reported under Subsection 53F-2-402(3).
43 (ii) The state board shall distribute state appropriations for transportation for fiscal
44 years 2021 and 2022 using fiscal year 2019 eligible transportation costs described
45 in Subsection 53F-2-402(3).
- 46 (c) The state board shall annually review the allowance per mile and the allowance per
47 hour and adjust the allowances to reflect current economic conditions.
- 48 (4)(a) Approved bus routes for funding purposes shall be determined on fall data
49 collected by October 1.
- 50 (b) Approved route funding shall be determined on the basis of the most efficient and
51 economic routes.
- 52 (5) A local school board may provide for the transportation of students regardless of the
53 distance from school, from general funds of the school district.

54 Section 2. **Effective date.**

55 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.