

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 364

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

SCHOOLS/BUS OPERATORS: Provides relative to the compensation of school bus operators

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:497(A) and (C) and to repeal R.S. 17:497(F), relative to the
3 compensation schedule for school bus operators who transport public school
4 students; to provide changes to the method by which compensation is calculated; to
5 require compensation for certain purchases made and costs incurred by school bus
6 operators; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:497(A) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
9 follows:

10 §497. School bus operators; operational schedules

11 A.(1) ~~Beginning with the fall term of 1986, and continuing thereafter, there~~
12 There shall be paid to the operators thereof, as defined herein, by this Section for the
13 operation of each school bus operated in the public school system of the state of
14 Louisiana, a rate of compensation for such operation in accordance with the
15 following ~~schedule~~:

16 ~~Beginning Fall Term, 1986 and thereafter~~

17 ~~(All figures are on a cents per mile basis.)~~

	First 6	Next 6	Over 12
	Miles	Miles	Miles
18 Length of bus	0-6.0	6.1-12.0	12.0 Plus
19 39 feet or more	117.80	107.08	80.29
20 38 feet or more,			

1	but less than 39 feet	112.44	101.72	80.29
2	34 feet or more;			
3	but less than 38 feet	107.08	96.36	80.29
4	28 feet or more;			
5	but less than 34 feet	101.72	91.01	74.94
6	26 feet or more;			
7	but less than 28 feet	96.36	85.66	74.94
8	23 feet or more;			
9	but less than 26 feet	91.01	80.30	74.94
10	21 feet or more;			
11	but less than 23 feet	85.66	74.94	69.59
12	19 feet or more;			
13	but less than 21 feet	80.30	69.59	64.25
14	17 feet or more;			
15	but less than 19 feet	80.30	64.25	58.89
16	14 feet or more;			
17	but less than 17 feet	53.54	48.17	37.47
18	Less than 14 feet			
19	buses, station wagons,			
20	and carryalls	53.54	48.17	37.47

21 (a) For buses with a manufacturer's rated capacity of forty-eight passengers
22 or fewer, the minimum operational pay rate is \$1.4683 per mile of paid mileage.

23 (b) For buses with a manufacturer's rated capacity of greater than forty-eight
24 passengers, the minimum operational pay rate is \$1.756 per mile of paid mileage.

25 (2) For buses equipped with lift and mobility device securement systems, the
26 manufacturer's rated capacity shall be determined by the rated capacity of a bus of
27 equal length that is designed to transport only ambulatory passengers.

28 (2) (3)(a) The compensation, as computed in accordance with the schedule
29 contained in this Section shall be paid for the number of days of actual operation, for

1 a ~~minimum of~~ but not less than one hundred eighty days, during the ~~nine-month~~
2 official school year adopted by the public school governing authority, and for the
3 number of days of actual operation for ~~any~~ the summer semester, if applicable.

4 (b) Each public school governing authority shall establish supplemental
5 operational payments for individual operators who are required to purchase the
6 following equipment:

7 (i) Lift mechanisms, wheelchair or other mobility securement devices,
8 occupant restraints, cleaning supplies, or other equipment required exclusively for
9 transporting students with disabilities.

10 (ii) Air-conditioning equipment.

11 (3) ~~The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by rule shall~~
12 ~~establish the method to be used for computing bus length for purposes of this~~
13 ~~Section. The method established by the board shall be uniformly applicable to each~~
14 ~~city and parish school system and such method shall be used by a city or parish~~
15 ~~school board to the exclusion of all others."~~

16 * * *

17 C. The term "~~mileage one-way~~" "paid mileage" as used in this Section shall
18 mean the distance the bus travels after picking up its first ~~child and student~~ until it
19 reaches the final student discharge destination or school of ~~said route or routes~~ each
20 morning and afternoon route officially designated by ~~each school board~~ the public
21 school governing authority.

22 * * *

23 Section 2. R.S. 17:497(F) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

24 Section 3. Implementation of this Act shall begin with the 2021-2022 school year.

25 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
26 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
27 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
28 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
29 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 364 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

White

Abstract: Changes how operational pay is calculated for school bus operators; requires payment for certain expenses.

Compensation for Driving Bus Routes

Present law provides a schedule of compensation rates to be paid to school bus operators for the transportation of public school students. Provides for varying compensation based on distance traveled and length of bus. Specifies that the compensation shall be paid for a minimum of 180 days during a nine-month school year and for the number of days of actual operation of a summer semester.

Proposed law changes operational pay rate to a minimum of \$1.4683 per mile of paid mileage for school buses with capacities of 48 or fewer passengers and a minimum of \$1.756 per mile of paid mileage for school buses with capacities greater than 48 passengers.

Proposed law requires operators be paid for the number of days of actual operation, for not less than 180 days during the school year calendar, as adopted by the public school governing authority. Retains present law provision relative to operational payment during a summer semester.

Proposed law defines "paid mileage" as the distance of a bus route beginning when the first student is picked up and ending when the bus reaches the final student discharge destination or school on both morning and afternoon routes.

Compensation for Certain Expenses

Proposed law requires a public school governing authority to establish supplemental operational payments for a school bus operator who is required to purchase certain equipment or supplies related to transporting students with disabilities or air conditioning equipment.

(Amends R.S. 17:497(A) and (C); Repeals R.S. 17:497(F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Modify the way mileage is calculated and the method by which payments are made for certain equipment and supplies.