

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3756

To study and improve the air quality inside school buses, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27 (legislative day, JULY 26), 2006

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To study and improve the air quality inside 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 “Healthy School Bus
5 Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) although air pollution is a health hazard for
9 people of all ages, children are potentially more vul-
10 nerable because the lungs of children are still devel-

1 oping and children breathe 50 percent more air per
2 pound of body weight than adults;

3 (2) diesel exhaust is considered to be a probable
4 human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection
5 Agency and the World Health Organization and con-
6 tains a high concentration of fine particles and 40
7 compounds that are listed as hazardous air pollut-
8 ants by the California Environmental Protection
9 Agency;

10 (3) fine particles from diesel exhaust have been
11 implicated as a potential cause of heart disease, res-
12 piratory disease, and stroke;

13 (4) diesel exhaust aggravates asthma, a disease
14 that affects approximately 4,500,000 American chil-
15 dren in kindergarten through twelfth grade;

16 (5) nearly 24,000,000 children in the United
17 States spend an average of an hour and a half each
18 day in a school bus;

19 (6) because of the protection school buses pro-
20 vide in the event of a crash, school buses are the
21 safest way for children to travel to school;

22 (7) the Clean School Bus USA program of the
23 Environmental Protection Agency, designed to help
24 school districts replace aging bus fleets or install
25 pollution control equipment, received proposals re-

1 questing approximately \$60,000,000 in grants, but
2 could only award \$10,000,000 in grants;

3 (8) recent studies have indicated that the con-
4 centration of diesel exhaust inside a school bus can
5 be considerably higher than in the ambient environ-
6 ment, and that some, if not most, of that pollution
7 may be coming from the bus itself; and

8 (9) although activities designed to curtail emis-
9 sions from the tailpipe of school buses appear to
10 have a positive effect on the air quality inside the
11 bus cabin, it is not clear how pollution enters the
12 cabin or what the best strategies are for combating
13 the pollution.

14 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF AIR QUALITY INSIDE SCHOOL BUSES.**

15 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
16 enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environ-
17 mental Protection Agency shall—

18 (1) conduct a study on air quality inside school
19 buses; and

20 (2) submit to Congress a report on the results
21 of the study.

22 (b) STRATEGIES.—The Administrator shall—

23 (1) develop strategies for improving air quality
24 inside school buses;

1 (2) conduct or support research to evaluate the
2 effectiveness of the strategies; and

3 (3) not later than 15 months after the date of
4 enactment of this Act, submit to Congress a report
5 describing the strategies and the results of the re-
6 search.

7 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
9 \$750,000.

10 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR CLEAN**
11 **SCHOOL BUS ACTIVITIES.**

12 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-
13 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry
14 out activities (including expansion of the Clean School Bus
15 USA program) to reduce the quantity of air pollution
16 emitted by school buses and to improve the air quality in-
17 side of school buses \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and
18 each subsequent fiscal year.

19 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that local educational
21 agencies and schools should—

22 (1) assign less-polluting buses to the longest
23 school bus routes; and

- 1 (2) adopt and implement policies to decrease
- 2 school bus idling.

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