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## DIGEST

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HB 364 Original

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 retains present law relative to minimum number of days paid.

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

Proposed law defines "one-way mile" as:

- (1) The distance of a bus route beginning when the first student is picked up and ending when the school or final destination is reached.
- (2) Computed as the average of the bus routes traveled in one day, when more than one route, as described above, is traveled.

### **Compensation for Certain Expenses**

Proposed law requires a public school governing authority to submit payment to a school bus operator who is required by such governing authority to purchase, maintain, modify, repair, or replace certain equipment, modifications, or cleaning supplies within 60 days of the required expense being incurred.

(Amends R.S. 17:497(A)(1) and (2) and (C); Repeals R.S. 17:497(A)(3) and (F))