

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 160

BY SENATOR CATHEY

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

SCHOOLS. Allows transportation network companies to transport students to and from school and school related functions. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:166.1, relative to transportation means of students in public schools; to provide for transportation network companies to transport students to and from school; to provide for certain requirements for transporting students; to provide for documentation of trips; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:166.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§166.1. School transportation of students; alternative means of transportation**

**A. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, a city, parish, or other local public school board may contract with a transportation network company to transport students under the age of eighteen to or from a school or school-related or sanctioned activity when the transportation network company is in compliance with this Section and meets the following requirements:**

**(1) The driver is at least twenty-one years of age and possesses a valid Louisiana driver's license for a minimum of three years.**

**(2) The driver has undergone a background check process which includes:**

1                    **(a) A national and state fingerprint-based criminal background check**  
2                    **through the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information in the office of**  
3                    **state police pursuant to R.S. 15:587.1 and R.S. 17:15(A)(1)(c).**

4                    **(b) A clear Louisiana child abuse and neglect screen.**

5                    **(3) The company shall provide child safety education to the driver, to**  
6                    **include:**

7                    **(a) Safe driving practices.**

8                    **(b) First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).**

9                    **(c) Special considerations for transporting youth with disabilities.**

10                  **(d) Safe pick-up and drop-off procedures.**

11                  **(e) Laws on proper child restraint systems.**

12                  **(4) The company shall implement a technology-enabled solution that:**

13                  **(a) Provides end-to-end viability of the ride and Global Positioning**  
14                  **System (GPS) tracking of the ride in real-time for the company, the passenger's**  
15                  **legal guardian, and, if different from the legal guardian, the person or entity**  
16                  **who scheduled the ride.**

17                  **(b) Monitors the ride in real-time for safety-related anomalies.**

18                  **(c) Provides the passenger's legal guardian with the ability to contact the**  
19                  **driver and the company directly.**

20                  **(5) The company shall implement ride-tracking technology that allows**  
21                  **for the detection of the following driving behaviors:**

22                  **(a) Device use.**

23                  **(b) Speeding.**

24                  **(c) Hard turning.**

25                  **(d) Hard braking.**

26                  **(e) Hard acceleration.**

27                  **(f) Collision detection.**

28                  **(6) The company shall ensure that vehicles used to provide these services**

29                  **are:**

1                    (a) Vehicles originally designed for not more than eight passengers,  
2                    including the driver.

3                    (b) No more than thirteen years old.

4                    (c) Inspected annually by a mechanic.

5                    (7) A driver shall complete and document a daily pre-trip inspection  
6                    before providing a ride pursuant to a contract under this Section. The driver,  
7                    on the pre-trip inspection, shall:

8                    (a) List any defects or deficiencies which would affect the safety of  
9                    operation of the vehicle.

10                   (b) If no defects or deficiencies are discovered by or reported to the  
11                   driver, the documented inspection shall so indicate.

12                   (8) Prior to performing services provided under this Section, any noted  
13                   defects or deficiencies listed in the annual or documented pre-trip vehicle  
14                   inspection shall be repaired or corrected.

15                   (9) The company shall maintain commercial automotive insurance that  
16                   does not contain an exclusion for the transportation of an unaccompanied  
17                   minor.

18                   (10) The company shall publish an annual safety report on its website.

19                   B. Any rules promulgated by the department consistent with this Section,  
20                   and the contract between the transportation network company and a city,  
21                   parish, or other local public school board, shall exclusively govern the services  
22                   arranged by the company under this Section.

23                   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
24                   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
25                   by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
26                   vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
27                   effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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DIGEST

SB 160 Engrossed 2025 Regular Session Cathey

Proposed law authorizes a city, parish, or other local public school board to contract with a transportation network company to transport riders under the age of 18 to or from school, a school related or sanctioned activity.

Proposed law requires the transportation company to meet the following:

- (1) The driver is at least 21 years of age and possesses a valid driver's license for a minimum of three years.
- (2) The driver has undergone a national and state fingerprint-based criminal background check through the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information in the office of state police.

Proposed law provides for an end-to-end viability of the ride and Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking of the ride in real-time for the company, the passenger's legal guardian, and, if different from the legal guardian, the person or entity who scheduled the ride.

Proposed law provides for vehicles originally designed for not more than eight passengers, including the driver and that the vehicles will be no more than 13 model years old.

Proposed law requires a driver to complete and document a daily pre-trip inspection before providing a ride pursuant to proposed law. Further, proposed law provides that the driver, on the pre-trip inspection, must list any defects or deficiencies which would affect the safety of operation of the vehicle and if no defects or deficiencies are discovered by or reported to the driver, the documented inspection shall so indicate.

Proposed law requires for the company to maintain commercial automotive insurance that does not contain an exclusion for the transportation of an unaccompanied minor.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:166.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Changes the age of the driver from 23 to 21.
2. Makes technical changes.