

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

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:497(A)(1) and (2) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to
10 read as follows:

11 §497. School bus operators; operational schedules

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

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

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

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

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

22 (a) For buses with a capacity of forty-eight passengers or fewer as
23 determined by the school bus body manufacturer and specified on the vehicle, the
24 minimum operational pay rate is \$1.4683 per one-way mile.

25 (b) For buses with a capacity of greater than forty-eight passengers as
26 determined by the school bus body manufacturer and specified on the vehicle, the
27 minimum operational pay rate is \$1.756 per one-way mile.

28 (2)(a) The compensation, as computed in accordance with ~~the schedule~~
29 ~~contained in this Section~~ shall be paid for a minimum of one hundred eighty days

1 during the ~~nine-month~~ school year, and for the number of days of actual operation
2 for ~~any~~ the summer semester.

3 (b) Each public school governing authority shall establish a supplemental
4 operational payment system for individual operators who are required by the
5 governing authority to purchase, maintain, modify, repair, or replace the following
6 equipment or supplies, and such payment shall be submitted to the operator within
7 sixty days of the expense being incurred:

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

11 (ii) Air-conditioning equipment.

12 * * *

13 ~~C.(1) The term "mileage one-way" as used in this Section shall mean the~~
14 ~~distance the bus travels after picking up its first child and until it reaches the final~~
15 ~~destination or school of said route or routes officially designated by each school~~
16 ~~board. For an operator who drives one daily bus route, "one-way mile" as used in this~~
17 Section shall be computed by measuring the distance he travels after picking up his
18 first student until the bus reaches the school or other final destination on the route.

19 (2) For an operator who drives more than one daily bus route, "one-way
20 mile" as used in this Section shall be computed by averaging the distance he travels
21 after picking up his first student until he reaches the school or other final destination
22 on each of the routes.

23 * * *

24 Section 2. R.S. 17:497(A)(3) and (F) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

25 Section 3. 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 Engrossed

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.

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

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