

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 219

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE STREAM.

1039L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 163.161, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to state aid for transportation of pupils.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 163.161, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 163.161, to read as follows:

163.161. 1. Any school district which makes provision for transporting pupils as provided in section 162.621 and sections 167.231 and 167.241 shall receive state aid for the ensuing year for such transportation on the basis of the cost of pupil transportation services provided the current year. A district shall receive, pursuant to section 163.031, an amount not greater than seventy-five percent of the allowable costs of providing pupil transportation services to and from school and to and from public accredited vocational courses, and shall not receive an amount per pupil greater than one hundred twenty-five percent of the state average approved cost per pupil transported the second preceding school year, except when the state board of education determines that sufficient circumstances exist to authorize amounts in excess of the one hundred twenty-five percent of the state average approved cost per pupil transported the second previous year.

2. The state board of education shall determine public school district route approval procedures to be used by each public school district board of education to approve all bus routes or portions of routes and determine the total miles each public school district needs for safe and cost-efficient transportation of the pupils and the state board of education shall determine allowable costs. No state aid shall be paid for the costs of transporting pupils living less than one mile from the school. However, if the state board of education determines that circumstances

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 exist where no appreciable additional expenses are incurred in transporting pupils living less than
19 one mile from school, such pupils may be transported without increasing or diminishing the
20 district's entitlement to state aid for transportation.

21 3. State aid for transporting handicapped and severely handicapped students attending
22 classes within the school district or in a nearby district under a contractual arrangement shall be
23 paid in accordance with the provisions of section 163.031 and an amount equal to seventy-five
24 percent of the additional cost of transporting handicapped and severely handicapped students
25 above the average per pupil cost of transporting all students of the district shall be apportioned
26 pursuant to section 163.031 where such special transportation is approved in advance by the
27 department of elementary and secondary education. State aid for transportation of handicapped
28 and severely handicapped children in a special school district shall be seventy-five percent of
29 allowable costs as determined by the state board of education which may for sufficient reason
30 authorize amounts in excess of one hundred twenty-five percent of the state average approved
31 cost per pupil transported the second previous year. In no event shall state transportation aid
32 exceed seventy-five percent of the total allowable cost of transporting all pupils eligible to be
33 transported; provided that no district shall receive reduced reimbursement for costs of
34 transportation of handicapped and severely handicapped children based upon inefficiency.

35 4. No state transportation aid received pursuant to section 163.031 shall be used to
36 purchase any school bus manufactured prior to April 1, 1977, that does not meet the federal
37 motor vehicle safety standards.

38 **5. Any school district that operates magnet schools as part of a master**
39 **desegregation settlement agreement shall not be considered inefficient for purposes of state**
40 **aid for transportation of pupils attending such magnet schools and shall not receive a**
41 **financial penalty for the magnet school transportation portion of the overall transportation**
42 **budget as a result thereof.**

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