

SB3159



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB3159

Introduced 2/6/2024, by Sen. Cristina Castro

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Zero Emissions School Bus Funding Program Act. Provides that the Environmental Protection Agency shall administer a Zero Emissions School Bus Funding Program for public schools to acquire funding to transition their school bus fleets to zero-emission fleets. Provides requirements for the Program, as well as factors for the Agency to consider in awarding funds, including demonstrating the ability to deploy the largest number of electric buses feasible, leveraging local, State, and federal funding, as well as incorporating microgrid technology. Authorities the Agency to adopt rules to implement and administer the Act. Defines terms.

LRB103 38447 BDA 68583 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Zero
5 Emissions School Bus Funding Program Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Agency" means the Environmental Protection Agency.

8 "School bus" means a passenger motor vehicle that is
9 designed to carry a driver and more than 10 passengers and that
10 is likely to be mainly or significantly used to transport
11 preprimary, primary, and secondary school students to or from
12 school or an event related to school.

13 Section 10. Zero Emissions School Bus Funding Program.

14 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Agency shall establish
15 and administer, in consultation with the State Board of
16 Education, a Zero Emissions School Bus Funding Program. Public
17 school districts in the State may apply for funding under the
18 Program to transition their school bus fleet to zero-emission
19 fleets. The Program shall have the following provisions:

20 (1) Public school districts that apply for funding
21 under this Act shall use a competitive procurement process
22 when selecting a bus provider.

1 (2) Public school districts that are awarded funding
2 under this Act may use the funding provided to procure
3 electric buses and to procure and install charging
4 infrastructure for electric buses.

5 (3) Public school districts that apply for funding
6 under this Act may apply in collaboration with school bus
7 fleet operators through leases or other relevant
8 agreements.

9 (4) Vented fuel fired heaters do not make buses
10 ineligible to be zero emissions school buses.

11 (5) Awards of funding under the Zero Emissions School
12 Bus Funding Program are subject to appropriation.

13 (b) The Agency shall award funds competitively to a public
14 school district based on the following factors:

15 (1) The Agency shall give preference to an applicant
16 who demonstrates the ability to deploy the largest number
17 of electric buses feasible, leveraging local, State, and
18 federal funding.

19 (2) The Agency shall consider the applicant's ability
20 to incorporate microgrid technology into bus deployment.

21 Section 15. Agency rulemaking. The Agency may adopt rules
22 in accordance with the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act
23 to implement and administer this Act.

24 Section 97. Severability. The provisions of this Act are

1 severable under Section 1.31 of the Statute on Statutes.