



SUPPORT

S. 5268/A. 6754 (Kennedy/Fahy)

AN ACT to amend the education law and the tax law, in relation to allowing for reimbursement of school districts for the purchase or lease of electric school buses

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 5268/A. 6754 (Kennedy/Fahy), which would provide school districts with incentives to purchase or lease electric school buses.

Nearly all school buses currently on the road run on diesel, which emits greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change as well as other air pollutants that cause asthma and other respiratory and cardiac illnesses. Asthma is the leading cause of both pediatric ER visits and school absenteeism in New York. Therefore, reducing the number of diesel-powered vehicles on the road, especially vehicles that serve children, is important for both achieving the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and protecting children's health.

S. 5268/A. 6754 would authorize a number of steps to get more electric school buses on the road. First, it makes school bus charging stations and the electricity that powers them allowable transportation expenses for purposes of computing transportation aid. Second, it prohibits any NYSERDA grants to school districts for the installation of electric bus charging stations from being deducted from a district's general school aid. Third, it creates a reimbursement for between ten and twenty percent, depending on how much of the district's budget is funded by the state, of the cost of purchasing or leasing an electric school bus between 2022 and 2030. Fourth, it exempts electric school buses from state and local sales tax. Finally, it allows school bus leases to run for up to 10 years for electric buses, compared to just the five years authorized for school bus leases under current law.

S. 5268/A. 6754 would put more electric school buses on the road, advance the goals of the CLCPA, and protect children's health. For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of S. 5268/A. 6754.

Contact:
Patrick McClellan
(212) 361-6350 x 209
pmcclellan@nylcv.org

