

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 626

BY SENATORS JEFFRIES, LINDSAY, PLYMALE, AND BEACH

[Introduced February 15, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-5-46, relating to directing county school boards to construct covered bus
3 stops for public school children.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-46. Covered bus stops with appropriate heating element for students.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that the combination of poor weather, specifically rain, snow,
2 sleet, and hail, and lower temperatures that occur between late fall and early spring cause
3 students to frequently get sick. Additionally, many areas that students use as “bus stops” are
4 unsafe and on broken sidewalks attached to busy roads. Because students are often sick, they
5 miss a lot of school. The Legislature finds that this causes them to miss important work and fall
6 behind, which results in lower grades, less important concepts learned, and will impact their
7 success in school and later on in life. A lack of safe and covered areas also puts their bodies at
8 risk for injuries from cars because their communities may not know where groups of children wait
9 for the bus. The purpose of this section is to increase community awareness of students and to
10 provide covered and sufficiently warm, labeled areas to wait along the bus routes in all highly-
11 populated urban areas. The covered bus stops will prevent students from frequent illnesses that
12 occur as a result of being exposed to dangerous weather and temperatures, as well as increase
13 student safety and increase community awareness. This will cause communities to be better and
14 stronger because the people who live in the communities will have more success as a result of
15 higher attendance at work and school.

16 (b) Each county board of education shall establish a program for construction of bus stops
17 and allocate moneys necessary to build and maintain covered bus stops to protect students from
18 poor weather and cold temperatures. Covered bus stops will have the following: Seats, a roof,
19 walls, a way to see outside, an entrance/exit, insulation or heating element, and a sign to ensure
20 community awareness. In order to keep costs down, decorating or advertising on the bus stops

- 21 will not be allowed unless the moneys being paid to advertise on the bus stop are fully used to
22 maintain the bus stops themselves.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the construction of bus stops for school children.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.