

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4942

By Delegates Pritt, Crouse, Moore, and Drennan

[Introduced January 29, 2026; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2E-5d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to requiring the presence of a second adult on a school bus when elementary children are
3 mixed with middle school aged children on a route.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2E. HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

§18-2E-5d. Standards for the duration of school bus transportation times for students to and from school; additional safety requirement for certain routes.

1 (a) The high quality standards for transportation adopted by the state board pursuant to
2 section five of this article shall include standards for the recommended duration of the one-way
3 school bus transportation time for students to and from school under normal weather and
4 operating conditions as follows:

5 (1) For elementary school students, thirty minutes;

6 (2) For middle school, intermediate school and junior high school students, forty-five
7 minutes; and

8 (3) For high school students, sixty minutes.

9 (b) A county board may not create a new bus route for the transportation of students in any
10 of the grade levels prekindergarten through grade five to and from any school included in a school
11 closure, consolidation or new construction project approved after July 1, 2008, which exceeds by
12 more than fifteen minutes the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation
13 time for elementary students adopted by the state board in accordance with subsection (a) of this
14 section unless:

15 (1) The county board adopts a separate motion to approve creation of the route and
16 request written permission of the state board to create the route; and

17 (2) Receives the written permission of the state board to create the route.

18 (c) A county board may not create, nor may the state board permit, the creation of a new
19 bus route for the transportation of students in any of the grade levels prekindergarten through

grade five to and from any school included in a school closure, consolidation or new construction project approved after July 1, 2008, which exceeds by more than thirty minutes the recommended duration of the one-way school bus transportation time for elementary students adopted by the state board in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

(d) The state board shall provide technical assistance to county boards with the objective of achieving school bus transportation routes for students which are within the recommended time durations established by the state board.

(e) If a school system is running bus routes where elementary or pre-kindergarten aged children, defined as pre-k through 4th grade, are present, and those students are mixed with middle school-aged children or above, then a second adult shall be present on the bus to maintain order and safety.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the presence of a second adult on a school bus when elementary children are mixed with middle school aged or high school aged children on a route.

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