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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 84

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 12, 2022

Requesting the Department of Education to study the root causes of public school bus driver shortages and the working conditions of public school bus drivers in the Commonwealth. Report.

Patrons—Guzman, Clark and Hope

Committee Referral Pending

WHEREAS, there is a severe shortage of school bus drivers in many local school divisions throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, transporting students safely to and from school is a key component of a high-quality system of education; and

WHEREAS, it is now imperative to collect and analyze data to better determine the root causes of such shortage and whether or how improved working conditions, including improvements in pay, benefits, training, and other employment supports, would contribute to ameliorating such shortage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Department of Education study the root causes of public school bus driver shortages and the working conditions of public school bus drivers in the Commonwealth.

In conducting its study, the Department of Education (the Department) shall administer to each public school bus driver in each local school division in the Commonwealth and as many former public school bus drivers as is feasible a survey to determine the level of satisfaction with and the need for improvement to the working conditions of public school bus drivers in the Commonwealth. Each local school board shall provide to the Department any assistance that is necessary to collect such survey data. The Department shall analyze such survey data and such other information and data as it deems necessary and advisable, including information from other states and school districts contained therein that have had success in addressing public school bus driver shortages by addressing working conditions, and shall make recommendations for statutory, regulatory, or budgetary changes that may contribute to the improvement of the working conditions of public school bus drivers.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Department by each local school board in the Commonwealth. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department for this study, upon request.

The Department shall complete its meetings by November 30, 2022, and shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

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