**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑67‑460, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO CONTRACTS FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BETWEEN A COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL OR CONTRACTOR, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE COSTS INCURRED UNDER THE CONTRACT AND SHALL RECEIVE CERTAIN ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL AID FROM THE STATE; AND TO PROVIDE THE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MAY REQUEST TITLE AND CONTROL OF SCHOOL BUSES OPERATED WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD BY THE STATE, AND THAT THE STATE SHALL GRANT THIS REQUEST AT NO COST, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS WHERE A DISTRICT SHARES A MAINTENANCE FACILITY WITH ANOTHER DISTRICT.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 59‑67‑460 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 59‑67‑460. (A) Any county board of education may at any time contract for any part or all of it’s transportation services with private individuals or contractors for the furnishing of such services. In any such instance the county board of education shall execute the contracts.

(1) The county board shall be responsible for the payment of all sums due under contracts and shall receive aid from the State for pupils thus transported only on the basis of the average per pupil operating cost of state‑owned equipment for the current year as determined by the State Board of Education.

(2) The county board is responsible for paying all maintenance costs, including the salaries and benefits of maintenance employees, due under the contracts and shall receive aid from the State for maintenance services based on the average per day cost of state‑owned equipment for the current year as determined by the State Board of Education.

(a) When making a transportation maintenance contract, the county board may ask the State to transfer title and control of any school buses that the State operates in any school district under the jurisdiction of the county board. The State shall comply with this request at no cost to the board or district.

(b) When making a transportation maintenance contract, the county board may ask the State to transfer title and control of any maintenance facilities that the State operates in any school district under the jurisdiction of the county board. Subject to the provisions of subitem (c), the State shall comply with this request at no cost to the board or district.

(c) If the school district shares maintenance facilities with another district, the board may, through its transportation maintenance contract with a private individual or contractor, do the following:

(i) contract for the use of a portion of the facilities that the district shares with another district, and the State shall not reasonably refuse; or

(ii) secure the use of another maintenance facility that the school board considers acceptable.

(B) The board may enter into agreements with county boards of education whereby pupils living in isolated areas may be transported by special arrangements when such transportation can be provided at lower cost than by operating a regular bus route.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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